Sunday
Los Angeles Times
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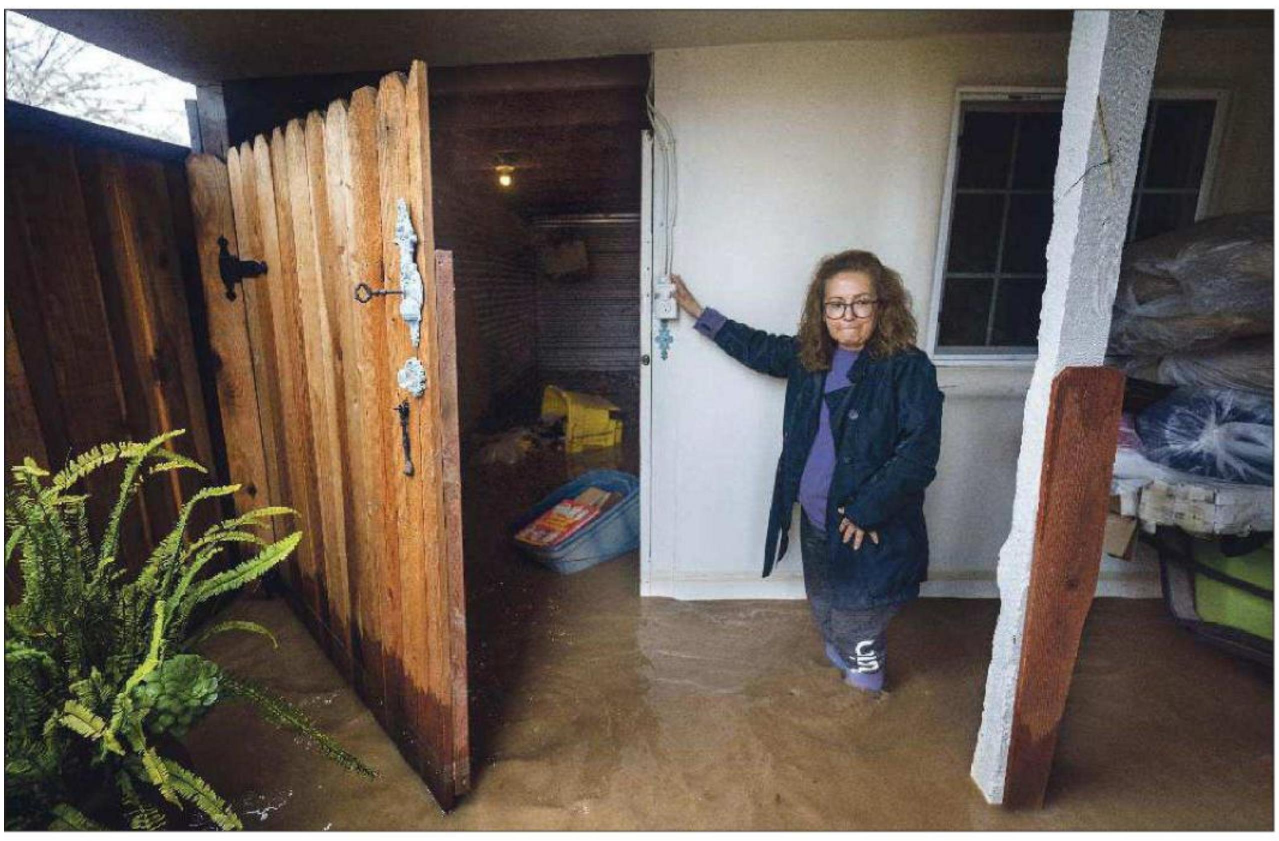


Nic Coury Associated Press

TERESA FUENTES wades through her home Friday in Watsonville, north of Monterey. "When you have a flood on top of a flood, it just makes a bigger flood," one meteorologist said of the state's back-to-back storms.

Towns are flooded as levee breaks in Monterey County

Hard-hit areas brace for more destruction this week as another atmospheric river is expected to drop rain on saturated ground

By Susanne Rust, Brittny Mejia and Liam Dillon

PAJARO, Calif. — A levee failure on the Pajaro River in Monterey County triggered massive flooding and prompted hundreds of evacuations and dozens of water rescues as the latest atmospheric river storm pummeled large swaths of California.

The levee — three miles upstream from the town of Pajaro — breached late Friday night, said Nicholas Pasculli, a Monterey County spokesperson. Patrols noticed "bubbling up in the adjacent farmland" at 11 p.m., the first sign there was a problem.

Thirty minutes later, the levee failed, Pasculli said. As of Saturday morning, he said, "the failure is approximately 100 feet wide." The town of Pajaro — with a population of 1,700, mostly farmworkers — is underwater.

Authorities conducted 60 rescues that included the use of high-water vehicles, the sheriff's diving team and the California Department

[See **Flooding,** A18]

O.C. swift water team is busy up north

A crew of 17 people completes at least 100 rescues, including man trapped in quicksand.

By James Rainey

SPRINGVILLE, Calif. — The hard part should have been over. The Loftis family home had barely escaped the fierce floodwaters of the Tule River, which laid waste to many others early Friday morning in this Sierra foothill community.

Saturday was supposed to be for mopping up, regrouping and taking a breath. But Sherry and Ed Loftis' son spotted one of the family's six cats stranded atop a flatbed truck that had become an island on the remade banks of the Tule.

Donald Stinson, 52, went to save the stranded cat, only to quickly need rescuing himself, as quicksand along the river sucked him down.

Good fortune (and a plan drawn by Tulare County's Fire Department) had delivered a swift water rescue team from the Orange County Fire Authority to the scene just minutes earlier. Before Stinson could sink farther, a half dozen firefighters threw him a lifeline, built a makeshift platform

[See **Tulare,** A12]

Tomas Ovalle For The Times

ORANGE COUNTY firefighters escort residents from their flooded property Saturday in Exeter, Calif.

DIVERSION: State will use San Joaquin River floodwaters to recharge depleted aquifer. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

A TIMES INVESTIGATION

How an FBI operation went out of bounds

A probe into NCAA men's college basketball is stained by misconduct by the lead agent in Las Vegas

By Nathan Fenno

The FBI agents arrived in Las Vegas with $135,000 and a plan.

They took over a penthouse at the Cosmopolitan, filled the in-room safe with government cash and stocked the wet bar with alcohol. Hidden cameras — including one near a crystal-encrusted wall in the living room — recorded visitors.

In the heart of a city known for heists and hangovers, the four agents were running an undercover operation as part of their probe into college basketball corruption that investigators code-named Ballerz.

One of the agents was posing as a deep-pocketed businessman wanting to bribe coaches to persuade their players to retain a particular sports management company when they turned professional. He distributed more than $40,000 in cash to a procession of coaches invited to the penthouse. The sting concluded at a poolside cabana on a blistering afternoon in July 2017 with a final envelope of cash passed to one last coach.

After that transaction, the lead case agent, Scott Carpenter, joined the undercover operative and the two other agents in eating and drinking their way through the $1,500 food and beverage minimum to rent the cabana.

Carpenter had consumed nearly a fifth of vodka and at least six beers by the time he returned to the penthouse to shower before a night out.

He grabbed $10,000 in undercover cash from the safe, then headed to a high-limit lounge at the casino next door. What happened next would ultimately stain the investigation like a cocktail spilled on a white tablecloth.

[See **Operation,** A10]

Bizuayehu Tesfaye Las Vegas Review-Journal

FBI AGENT Scott Carpenter, right, leaves a Las Vegas courthouse after an August appearance.

Merl Code

Book Richardson

Christian Dawkins

Tony Bland

10 years of Francis, the most California of popes

By Deborah Netburn

Sitting in her family home in East Los Angeles, Rosa Manriquez kept her eyes on the TV screen as a flood of white smoke came pouring out of the roof of the Sistine Chapel 6,300 miles away — a century-old signal that the cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church had chosen a new leader.

Manriquez, now 70, is the mother of two lesbian daughters who supports female ordination to the priesthood. On that day, 10 years ago, she waited impatiently to see who would emerge from behind the red curtain on a Vatican balcony as the head of the church she both loved and struggled against.

"So I see this man come out, and I think, 'There's something different about

[See **Pope,** A16]

OSCARS

LAUNDROMAT WHERE IT HAPPENED

Owners of L.A.-area business filmed in 'Everything' feel a kinship with award hopeful.

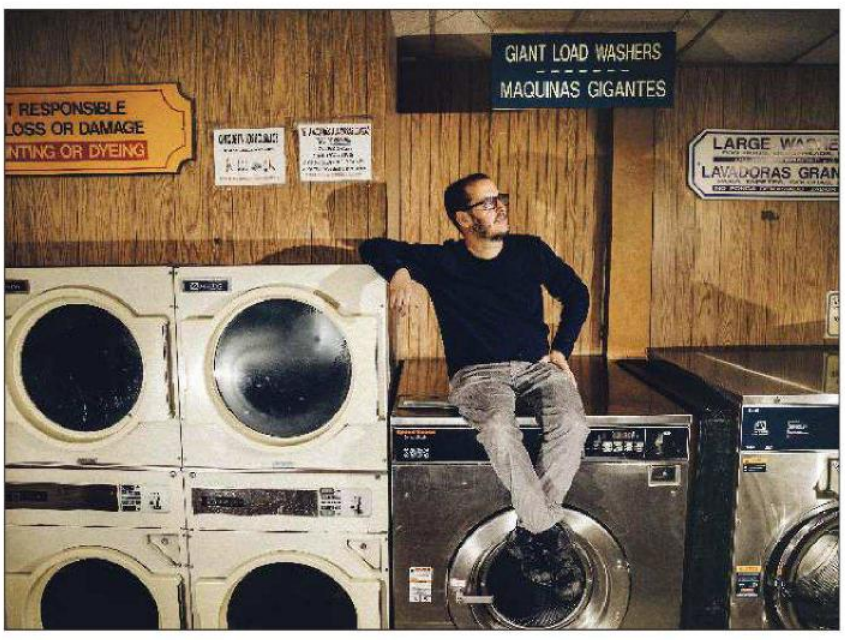
By Jonah Valdez

Majers Coin Laundry in San Fernando could be any Los Angeles-area laundromat.

It's tucked between an auto repair shop and a mobile home park; its tall glass windows revealing vending machines stocked with M&M's and bleach. Rows of metal carts line the front, where the wind occasionally blows them into the asphalt parking lot.

But there's one detail that sets Majers apart from the competition: For six days in March 2020, this laundromat was home to Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert's production of "Everything Everywhere All at Once," now the front-runner for best

[See **Laundromat,** A8]



Jay L. Clendenin Los Angeles Times

KENNY MAJERS sits in his San Fernando laundromat, which was home to the sci-fi action comedy "Everything Everywhere All at Once."

Los Angeles Times
CALENDAR
OSCARS MAKE A STAND

OSCARS TONIGHT

5 p.m. PDT | TV: Channel 7

Our guide to the Academy Awards, a comeback story in the making. **CALENDAR, E1**

Shock waves over Saudi-Iran deal

News of the rivals' rapprochement stuns the Middle East and worries Israel. **WORLD, A3**

Lender's failure is industry's fault

Bank's collapse shows the need for reform of tech, Brian Merchant writes. **BUSINESS, A19**

Hoop dreams nearly derailed

Basketball saved a deaf and autistic player, but a rules issue almost took it away. **SPORTS, D1**

Timely reminder

Daylight saving time began today at 2 a.m.

Weather:
Clouds clearing.
L.A. Basin: 66/53. **B10**

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Democrats, the social safety net needs you

MICHAEL HILTZIK

It's an article of faith down our way that Democrats are good at enacting programs that help ordinary Americans and the vulnerable but are atrocious at communicating their ideals and successes to the public, while Republicans care only about serving the rich but are superb at fostering the misimpression that they're servants of the masses.

This leaves the question: What happens when Democrats abandon their principles and leave ordinary Americans in the gutter?

The issue is relevant because that's what is happening right this moment. Starting last year and culminating this month, three important elements of the social safety net have been or are being cut back: Medicaid, food stamps (formally the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) and the child tax credit.

Three things are true about all those programs. They're hugely popular, they're extraordinarily effective at fighting poverty, and they've been targets of Republican budget-cutters for virtually as long as they've existed.

Under the circumstances, that should have placed these programs at the top of the "must do" list for the Biden White House and congressional Democrats. The Democrats, however, showed scant interest in imparting their importance to the GOP and conservative holdouts in their own party.

As a result, the enhancements to the programs enacted during the pandemic were permitted to wither away. That happened despite reams of evidence of their effect on poverty rates, which justified continuing the augmentation past the immediate pandemic emergency and into the future.

President Biden has made clear that he supports these programs. In his proposed budget for fiscal 2024, which was released Thursday, he called for restoring the child tax credit to the levels that expired at the end of 2021.

That would mean raising the credit from the current $2,000 per child to $3,000 (and $3,600 for children 5 and younger) and making it fully refundable, so that it would be paid even if it exceeds a family's tax liability.

Biden has also signaled a rare willingness to reverse years of tax policies indulging the rich.

His proposed tax increases are aimed at millionaires, billionaires and Big Business — among them an increase in the corporate tax rate to 28% from 21%, a minimum tax on billionaires and an increase in the top marginal rate to 39.6% on incomes of more than $400,000 (up from 35% on incomes of $462,500 for couples and 37% for those collecting $578,125 or more), and doubling the capital gains tax rate to 39.6% for those earning more than $1 million.

What's lacking in America's approach to the social safety net is any appreciation of how threadbare it is under normal circumstances. The success of pandemic-era emergency increases underscores that failing.

"The kind of assistance we give families leaves them in a very precarious financial circumstance," says Sharon Parrott, president of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a progressive think tank.

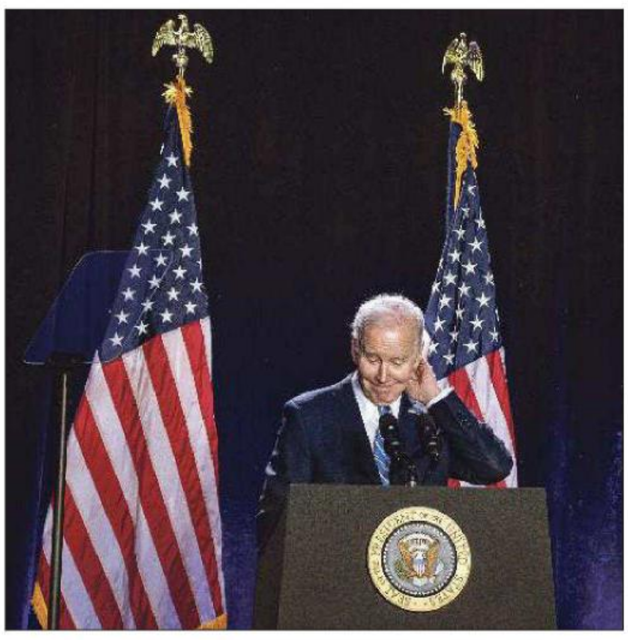
An inability to put muscle into supporting their signature programs has been a chronic Democratic infirmity for decades. Sometimes it's just cowardice — a fear that the public will punish them for spending on social problems.

In fact, the opposite has always been true; that's the lesson taught by what happened after passage of the Affordable Care Act in March 2010. The Democrats allowed the GOP to define the program for the public as something nefarious, failed to stand up for its virtues — and got slaughtered in that year's midterm elections, losing six Senate and 63 House seats.

What's the upshot? Enrollment in ACA exchange plans reached a record 15.9 million as of January, an increase of 13% over last year.

Few Democrats have shown the willingness or skill to stand up against their opponents. The best was Franklin D. Roosevelt, who delighted in making sport of GOP animus, never letting voters forget what was at stake for them in every election. "I welcome their hatred," he said resoundingly during his 1936 reelection campaign against Alf Landon of Kansas.

When Landon enlisted Big Business to support his campaign, which was centered on an attack on Social Security, by inserting critical fliers into workers' pay envelopes, FDR blasted back: "Only desperate men with their backs to the wall would descend so far below the level of decent citizenship as to foster the current pay-envelope campaign against America's working people." He beat Landon in a landslide.



KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S budget would throw many Americans a life vest, but his party must back him up.

Biden, like Roosevelt, has made a point of defending Social Security against Republican meddling. But by extracting a pledge from the GOP during his State of the Union address last month to leave that program and Medicare alone, he may have left Medicaid exposed to Republican scalpels. The GOP hasn't concealed its goal of hobbling Medicaid, which provides health coverage to 80 million low-income Americans, making it the nation's largest healthcare program. Republicans absolutely hate Medicaid.

As long ago as 2012, they were proposing to change Medicaid to a block-granted program — that is, changing its open-ended federal-state funding to a fixed annual sum. As I explained the last time this idea came up, this would destroy the program's flexibility to respond to unexpected changes in healthcare needs either on the state or national level — changes such as, say, the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

More recently, the proposed fiscal 2023 budget issued by the Republican Study Committee, a key GOP policy shop, took aim at Medicaid with a series of unsupported slanders.

The RSC claimed that it "continues to fail beneficiaries." The drafters based this assertion partly on a tendentious and cherry-picked misreading of a study of Oregon Medicaid enrollees published in 2012.

That paper found that "Medicaid increased healthcare utilization, reduced financial strain and reduced depression" among its beneficiaries — which sound like unalloyed successes, not failures; depression, for example, is a major cause of disability in the U.S.

This year, a pandemic-related regulation known as the continuous enrollment provision is expiring. The rule required states to keep people enrolled in Medicaid through the end of the federal health emergency period in return for enhanced federal Medicaid funding. The emergency period will end in May.

States are already moving to restore their pre-pandemic Medicaid renewal process, which includes income tests. It's expected that the result will be the disenrollment of 5 million to 14 million people, the Kaiser Family Foundation estimates.

It's generally agreed that the continuous enrollment protection had to end at some point, says Jennifer Tolbert, the foundation's director of state health reform. "There are people on the program who are clearly no longer eligible," mostly because their incomes have risen beyond the eligibility point or they have found other coverage, Tolbert told me.

But the government estimates that 6.8 million people may lose their coverage despite still being eligible — possibly because they've moved or they otherwise can't be reached by enrollment officials.

"Those are the people we're most concerned about," Tolbert said, "because they don't have anywhere to go to get coverage."

As for SNAP, Republicans never sheathe the knives they have out for the food stamp program.

As of March 1, food stamp benefits were slashed in 32 states, including California and Texas, which have the largest SNAP enrollments. The cuts had already been implemented in the other 18 states, which are generally Republican-controlled.

The cuts resulted from the end of emergency allotments — increased benefits launched early in the pandemic, when families faced huge economic disruptions. More than 30 million people are affected by the change. The cuts will average about $328 a month for a family of four. The average individual cut will come to $90 a month, leaving only about $6.10 per person per day.

The child tax credit may be the starkest case of a program orphaned despite its inescapable value. Its expansion as part of the American Rescue Plan, the $1.9-trillion pandemic relief package Biden signed in March 2021, benefited more than 61 million children in more than 36 million households. The child poverty rate fell from 21.4% in August 2020 to 7.6% in March 2021.

"The child tax credit drove down poverty to levels we have never seen in the United States," Parrott told me. When the enhanced benefits expired in 2022, poverty rates across the board jumped back up, with the child poverty rate reaching 17.6% in June. Restoring the credit had bipartisan support, but not enough to get it past the finish line in negotiations over Biden's Inflation Reduction Act last year.

With the expiration of enhanced SNAP benefits and reductions in the child tax credit, millions of Americans are facing poverty again. Biden's budget would throw many of them a life preserver, but that won't happen unless Democrats hammer Republicans with the consequences of their cheeseparing ways by reminding all voters what's at stake.

Hiltzik writes a blog on latimes.com. Follow him on Facebook or on Twitter @hiltzikm or email michael.hiltzik @latimes.com.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

GOP spending ideas don't add up

DOYLE McMANUS

President Biden unveiled his $6.8-trillion budget proposal last week, and it drew the customary jaded responses: a work of fiction. A party platform with price tags. And, of course, dead on arrival.

All true. But from Biden's standpoint, the budget rollout was a resounding success that served two purposes.

It put the president where he wants to be as he prepares an expected reelection campaign, with one foot in his party's center and one in its progressive left.

Biden gave centrists a promise to cut future deficits by almost $3 trillion and shore up Medicare's deteriorating finances.

But he also asked for more funding for child care, elder care and fighting climate change, and said he'd pay for the whole package by raising taxes on corporations and the wealthy.

In a campaign-style speech at a union hall in the swing state of Pennsylvania, he said his budget was designed to "give working-class folks a fighting chance." Expect to hear more of that as he tries to woo those voters next year.

More important, the budget was Biden's opening offer in a battle over federal spending that is likely to consume the rest of the year.

The president knows the Republican-led House of Representatives won't agree to the social programs he's proposed or the tax increases to pay for them.

Beyond campaign positioning, his real goal was to nudge House Republicans toward serious negotiations and a vote to raise the debt ceiling, which limits government borrowing.

Republicans have said they won't raise it unless they get deep spending cuts in return — an ultimatum that risks touching off a catastrophic failure by the government to pay its bills. But they haven't settled on a comprehensive list of the cuts they want; there's no official GOP budget proposal.

They've mostly recycled traditional conservative demands for cuts in spending they consider wasteful, plus one innovative wrinkle: They've promised to trim the budget by eliminating "woke spending."

And what, you may ask, is that? The definition isn't clear.

Judging from the examples Republicans offer, woke spending appears to include anything conservative voters don't like: racial equity efforts, especially in the armed forces; programs aimed at helping LGBTQ people; and anything to do with climate change.

Plus a walking trail in the Atlanta suburbs. A $3.6-million federal grant to extend the Michelle Obama Trail is on the House Budget Committee's hit list of "woke waste." If the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners had named the path after Rosalynn Carter, it might not be in as much trouble.

But cutting every penny of so-called woke spending, no matter how broadly the term is defined, won't eliminate the deficit.

The "woke waste" list was compiled by House Budget Committee Chairman Jodey Arrington (R-Texas), who has offered the closest thing Republicans have to a plan.

Arrington has proposed cutting domestic spending by $150 billion next year. That sounds like a lot, but it would reduce the federal deficit by only about 9%.

And that gets us to the House Republicans' real problem: They've boxed themselves in to a fiscal trap, thanks mostly to former President Trump.

For decades, conservatives proposed balancing the budget partly by cutting future spending on Social Security and Medicare.

But Trump abandoned that doctrine, and other Republicans, including House Speaker Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield, fell in line — even though fiscal experts in both parties acknowledge that the programs are heading toward financial trouble.

So while Republicans want spending cuts, they have ruled out taking them from the biggest programs: Social Security, Medicare and defense.

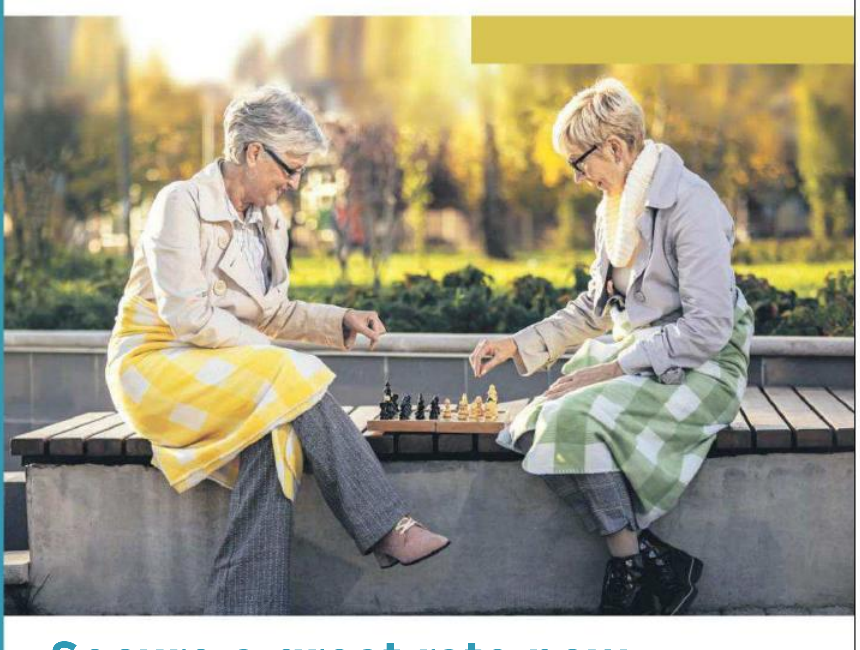
To balance the budget within 10 years, as they say they want to do, they would need to cut almost every other part of the government by an unrealistic 85%, according to the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

Biden has taken Social Security and Medicare off the table, too, but he has built himself an escape hatch: He wants to raise taxes on corporations and people who make more than $400,000 a year. That would allow him to put money into Medicare and reduce the national debt.

Republicans have sworn never to raise taxes, so they need to find another solution to the math problem. They haven't.

That's why the danger of a budget crisis — not only a government shutdown, but a catastrophic default on the federal debt — looks greater this year than ever before.

The way to avert such a crisis is to begin serious negotiations. Biden's budget proposal has put the ball in McCarthy's court. Where's his plan?



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Saudi-Iran deal worries Israel, shakes up Mideast

The rapprochement is a blow to Netanyahu. In Yemen, both sides express a bit of hope.

By Isabel Debre and Samy Magdy

Luo Xiaoguang Xinhua News Agency

TOP Chinese diplomat Wang Yi, center, presides over Beijing talks between Saudis led by national security advisor Musaad bin Mohammed Aiban and Iranians led by Ali Shamkhani, security council secretary.

JERUSALEM — News of the rapprochement between longtime regional rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran sent shock waves through the Middle East on Saturday and dealt a symbolic blow to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has made the threat posed by Tehran a public diplomacy priority and personal crusade.

The breakthrough — a culmination of more than a year of negotiations in Baghdad and more recent talks in China — also became ensnared in Israel's internal politics, reflecting the country's divisions at a moment of national turmoil.

The agreement, which gives Iran and Saudi Arabia two months to reopen their respective embassies and reestablish ties after seven years of rupture, more broadly represents one of the most striking shifts in Middle Eastern diplomacy over recent years. In countries like Yemen and Syria, long caught between the Sunni kingdom and the Shiite powerhouse, the announcement stirred cautious optimism.

In Israel, it caused disappointment — along with finger-pointing. One of Netanyahu's greatest foreign policy triumphs remains Israel's U.S.-brokered normalization deals in 2020 with four Arab states, including Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. They were part of a wider push to isolate and oppose Iran in the region.

He has portrayed himself as the only politician capable of protecting Israel from Tehran's rapidly accelerating nuclear program and regional proxies, like Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Israel and Iran have also waged a regional shadow war that has led to suspected Iranian drone strikes on Israeli-linked ships ferrying goods in the Persian Gulf, among other attacks.

A normalization deal with Saudi Arabia, the most powerful and wealthy Arab state, would fulfill Netanyahu's prized goal, reshaping the region and boosting Israel's standing in historic ways. Even as backdoor relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia have grown, the kingdom has said it won't officially recognize Israel before a resolution to the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Since returning to office late last year, Netanyahu and his allies have hinted that a deal with the kingdom could be approaching. In a speech to American Jewish leaders last month, Netanyahu described a peace agreement as "a goal that we are working on in parallel with the goal of stopping Iran."

But experts say the Saudi-Iran deal that was announced Friday has thrown cold water on those ambitions. Saudi Arabia's decision to engage with its regional rival has left Israel largely alone as it leads the charge for diplomatic isolation of Iran and threats of a unilateral military strike against Iran's nuclear facilities. The UAE also resumed formal relations with Iran last year.

"It's a blow to Israel's notion and efforts in recent years to try to form an anti-Iran bloc in the region," said Yoel Guzansky, an expert on the Persian Gulf at the Institute for National Security Studies, an Israeli think tank. "If you see the Middle East as a zero-sum game, which Israel and Iran do, a diplomatic win for Iran is very bad news for Israel."

Even Danny Danon, a Netanyahu ally and former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations who recently predicted a peace agreement with Saudi Arabia in 2023, seemed disconcerted.

"This is not supporting our efforts," he said, when asked about whether the rapprochement hurt chances for the kingdom's recognition of Israel.

In Yemen, where the rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran has played out with the most destructive consequences, both warring parties were guarded, but hopeful.

A Saudi-led military coalition intervened in Yemen's conflict in 2015, months after the Iran-backed Houthi militias seized the capital, Sana, in 2014, forcing the internationally recognized government into exile in Saudi Arabia.

The Houthi rebels welcomed the agreement as a modest but positive step.

"The region needs the return of normal relations between its countries, through which the Islamic society can regain security lost from foreign interventions," said Houthi spokesman and chief negotiator Mohammed Abdulsalam.

The Saudi-backed Yemeni government expressed some optimism — and caveats.

"The Yemeni government's position depends on actions and practices not words and claims," it said, adding that it would proceed cautiously "until observing a true change in [Iranian] behavior."

Analysts did not expect an immediate settlement to the conflict, but said direct talks and better relations could create momentum for a separate agreement that may offer both countries an exit from a disastrous war.

"The ball now is in the court of the Yemeni domestic warring parties to prioritize Yemen's national interest in reaching a peace deal and be inspired by this initial positive step," said Afrah Nasser, a nonresident fellow at the Washington-based Arab Center.

Anna Jacobs, senior Persian Gulf analyst with the International Crisis Group, said she believed the deal was tied to a de-escalation in Yemen. "It is difficult to imagine a Saudi-Iran agreement to resume diplomatic relations and reopen embassies within a two-month period without some assurances from Iran to more seriously support conflict resolution efforts in Yemen."

War-scarred Syria similarly welcomed the agreement as a move toward easing tensions that have exacerbated the country's conflict. Iran has been a main backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad's government, while Saudi Arabia has supported opposition fighters trying to remove him from power.

In Israel, bitterly divided and gripped by mass protests over plans by Netanyahu's far-right government to overhaul the judiciary, politicians seized on the rapprochement between the kingdom and Israel's archenemy as an opportunity to criticize Netanyahu, accusing him of focusing on his personal agenda at the expense of Israel's international relations.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid denounced the agreement as "a full and dangerous failure of the Israeli government's foreign policy."

Debre and Magdy write for the Associated Press.

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Russian gains will be costly, U.K. predicts

By Karl Ritter

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian forces have made progress in their campaign to capture the city of Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine, the focus of the war's longest ground battle, but their assault will be difficult to sustain without more significant personnel losses, British military officials said Saturday.

The U.K. Defense Ministry said in its latest assessment that paramilitary units from the Kremlin-controlled Wagner Group have seized most of eastern Bakhmut, with a river flowing through the city now marking the front line of the fighting.

The mining city is in Donetsk province, one of four regions of Ukraine that Russian President Vladimir Putin illegally annexed last year.

Russia's military opened the campaign to take control of Bakhmut in August, and both sides have experienced staggering casualties.

Ukrainian troops and supply lines remain vulnerable to "continued Russian attempts to outflank the defenders from the north and south" as the Wagner Group's forces try to close in on them in a pincer movement, the U.K. ministry said.

However, the ministry added, it will be "highly challenging" for Wagner's soldiers to push ahead because Ukraine has destroyed key bridges over the river, while Ukrainian sniper fire from fortified buildings farther west has made the thin strip of open ground in the city's center "a killing zone."

Russian military bloggers and other pro-Kremlin Telegram accounts claimed Friday that Russian forces had entered a metal processing plant in northwest Bakhmut. The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, also referenced geolocated video showing Russian forces within half a mile of the AZOM plant, a heavily built-up and fortified complex.

The institute reported in its Friday night assessment that Moscow's apparent focus on capturing the plant, rather than opting for a "wider encirclement of western Bakhmut" by attempting to take nearby villages, was likely to bring a further wave of Russian casualties.

Ukraine's ground forces Saturday signaled their intention to hold out in Bakhmut, announcing on Facebook that their top officer, Col. Oleksandr Syrskyi, was personally overseeing "the most important sectors of the front" to deny Moscow a long-awaited battlefield victory.

"Our military is standing. This is our fortress. And what they are doing now, we cannot even imagine how useful it will be for the country, for our army in the near future," National Security and Defense Council Secretary Oleksiy Danilov said on Ukrainian state TV.

Quoting Syrskyi, he said the alleys and territory around Bakhmut were "littered with the corpses of Russians and 'Wagnerians.' "

Meanwhile, repair work continued Saturday across Ukraine following a massive Russian missile and drone strike two days earlier that killed six people and left hundreds of thousands without heat or electricity.

Ukraine's state grid operator said power supply issues persisted across four provinces after the barrage, in which 80 Russian missiles and a smaller number of exploding drones hit residential buildings and infrastructure across the country.

In a Facebook post, Ukrenergo said scheduled blackouts remain in place in Kharkiv and Zhytomyr, as well as parts of the Dnipropetrovsk and Mykolaiv regions. The company added that the situation in Zhytomyr was especially challenging, with some customers still without power.

The Ukrainian military reported that Russia launched 34 attacks from multiple rocket launchers Saturday on various parts of the country. They included southern Ukraine's Kherson province, where three people "who simply went to a store to buy groceries" were killed, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

Russian shelling between Friday morning and Saturday morning killed at least five people and wounded 19 more across Kherson and Donetsk provinces, Ukrainian authorities reported.

Donetsk has been the epicenter of the fighting in recent months, while Ukrainian-held parts of Kherson have seen daily shelling from Russian troops stationed across the Dnipro River.

On Saturday, Russian forces also launched 12 airstrikes and two missile strikes on the city of Zaporizhzhia, the capital of the southeastern Ukrainian province of the same name, according to Ukraine's military. A strike by an S-300 missile hit a civilian infrastructure facility, but no casualties were reported.

Ukrainian defense chief Oleksii Reznikov welcomed his Norwegian counterpart to Kyiv on Saturday. Defense Minister Bjorn Arild Gram announced Norway's decision to earmark $7.5 billion over the next five years for weapons and other aid for Ukraine.

Ritter writes for the Associated Press.

Photographs by Evgeniy Maloletka Associated Press

OLEKSANDR Nikiforov gets first aid from a soldier and police officer after Russian shelling Friday in a residential neighborhood near Kostiantynivka, Ukraine.

UKRAINIAN paratroopers in a dugout near Bakhmut on Friday. U.K. military officials say it will be "highly challenging" for Russian soldiers to advance because Ukraine has destroyed key bridges and posted snipers.

FOR THE RECORD

Cathleen Schine: In the Calendar section in this edition, an article about novelist Cathleen Schine misspells her wife Janet Meyers' last name as Meyer. The error was discovered after the section was printed.

LAPD verdict: In the March 10 Section A, an article about a jury award to Deon Jones, a protester injured by an LAPD projectile, said that on the date of the injury, demonstrators had set fire to a police car several blocks away from Jones. Jones was across the street from the car.

Book sales suspended: In the March 7 Section A, an article about sales of a USC scientist's book being halted over plagiarism concerns included incorrect publication dates for two other books. "The End of Illness" was published in 2012, not 2011, and "Grain Brain: The Surprising Truth About Wheat, Carbs, and Sugar — Your Brain's Silent Killers" was published in 2013, not 2018.

Sycamore District: In the Feb. 19 Weekend section, an article about Sycamore Avenue said that Beyoncé had a Supervinyl store takeover to celebrate her live album "Homecoming." The event was for her 2022 album, "Renaissance."

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Many unaware of children's academic struggles

Experts say schools must do a better job of communicating with parents over setbacks.

By Bianca Vázquez Toness

Steven Senne Associated Press

EVENA JOSEPH, a parent in the Boston Public Schools system, recently moved her son, J. Ryan Mathurin, 9, to a campus that could provide small-group tutoring. Above, she helps J. Ryan during homework in December.

BOSTON — Evena Joseph was unaware how much her 10-year-old son was struggling in school. She found out only with help from somebody who knows the Boston school system better than she does.

Her son, J. Ryan Mathurin, wasn't always comfortable pronouncing words in English. But Joseph, a Haitian immigrant raising him by herself, did not know how far behind he was in reading — in the 30th percentile — until a hospital where her son was receiving treatment connected her with a bilingual advocate.

"I'm sad and disappointed," Joseph said through an interpreter. "It's only because I was assigned an educational advocate that I know this about my son."

It's known from test scores that the pandemic set back students across the country. But many parents don't realize that their child is among them.

Schools have long faced criticism for failing to inform certain parents about their kids' academic progress. It will take better communication with parents to help students get the support they need, experts say.

"Parents can't solve a problem that they don't know they have," said Cindi Williams, co-founder of Learning Heroes, a nonprofit dedicated to improving communication between public schools and parents about student academic progress.

A 2022 survey of 1,400 public school parents around the country by Learning Heroes showed that 92% believed their children were performing at grade level. But in a federal survey, school officials said half of U.S. students began this academic year behind grade level in at least one subject.

At home, J. Ryan races through multiplication problems at his dining room table. His mother watches as he lingers for several minutes on a paragraph about weather systems and struggles to answer questions about the reading.

"Sometimes I can't understand the writing or the main idea of the text," J. Ryan said.

The struggles that brought J. Ryan to the hospital for mental health treatment began in third grade, when he returned to in-person school after nearly a year of studying online. His teacher called frequently, sometimes every day. J. Ryan was getting frustrated, disrupting lessons and leaving the classroom.

J. Ryan displayed these behaviors during English language arts and other classes, including Mandarin and gym, according to his special education plan. He happily participated in math class, where he felt more confident.

Joseph changed her work schedule at a casino to the night shift so she could talk with teachers during the day. The calls continued in fourth grade. But Joseph said teachers never mentioned his problems reading.

Last spring, she sought treatment for what was becoming obvious: Her son was depressed. She was teamed up at the hospital with the parent advocate who speaks English and Haitian Creole.

The advocate, Fabienne Eliacin, pushed to get J. Ryan's scores from the tests given each fall to monitor student learning. She explained to Joseph what it meant to be scored in the 30th percentile. It's not good, Eliacin told her. He can do better.

To Joseph, it suddenly made sense why J. Ryan was acting out in English class. But why, she wondered, were his teachers focused only on her son's behavior if his trouble reading was causing his distress?

"They don't really care how much they learn, as long as they stay quiet," Joseph concluded.

Boston Public Schools officials wouldn't comment on J. Ryan's case.

"We are committed to providing families with comprehensive and up-to-date information regarding their student's academic performance," district spokesperson Marcus O'Mard said.

Before this year, it was up to Boston schools to share midyear evaluations with parents, but it's not clear how many were doing it. In the fall, Boston rolled out a communications campaign to help teachers explain testing results to parents as often as three times a year.

J. Ryan's former teachers did not respond to emails seeking comment.

There are many reasons teachers might not talk to parents about a student's academic progress, especially when the news is bad, research shows.

"Historically, teachers did not get a lot of training to talk to parents," said Tyler Smith, a school psychology professor at the University of Missouri. School leadership and support for teachers also make a difference, he said.

That's consistent with findings from national teacher surveys conducted by Learning Heroes. At times, Williams said, teachers "make assumptions" that some low-income parents don't care or shouldn't be burdened, or that parents won't believe them.

Without these conversations, parents have had to rely on report cards. But report cards are notoriously subjective, reflecting how much effort students show in class and whether they turn in homework.

The progress report for Tamela Ensrud's second-grade son in Nashville shows mostly A's and a B in English, but she noticed her son was having trouble with reading. She asked to discuss her son's reading test scores at a fall parent-teacher conference, but was only shown samples of her son's work and told, "Your son is doing well."

Her son's after-school program, which is run by a nonprofit, tested his literacy and math skills this fall and found he was reading below grade level. He qualified for the reading intervention program.

"I don't think the full story is being told," Ensrud said.

Metro Nashville Public Schools said it posts student test scores online for parents to see.

Ensrud has looked at the scores online and found them impossible to interpret.

Many districts have poured their federal pandemic recovery money into summer school offerings, tutoring programs and other interventions to help students regain ground lost during the pandemic. But the uptake hasn't been what educators hoped.

Once Joseph and her advocate learned J. Ryan was behind in reading, they moved him in November to a school that could provide small-group tutoring, which experts believe to be one of the most effective strategies for struggling students.

Joseph isn't getting phone calls from the teacher complaining about J. Ryan's behavior. But she hasn't received a report card this year or the test scores the district says it's sending to families.

Toness writes for the Associated Press.

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This is the real 'Everything' laundromat

[**Laundromat,** from A1] picture and a host of other prizes at Sunday's Academy Awards ceremony after sweeping top honors at the Directors, Producers, Writers and Screen Actors guild awards.

The laundromat became the center of the picture's multiple universes, the site of the emotionally heavy moments that helped turn ugly crying to the movie into a meme.

Since the film's release in March 2022, fans from as close as Burbank and as far as Singapore have come to Majers. They pose for selfies in front of the building's recognizable green roof and red signage. Some come in costume. Others simply gawk at the washing machines and dryers, attempting to relive shots from the movie.

To them, the laundromat belongs to the main characters of the sci-fi action comedy, Evelyn (Michelle Yeoh) and Waymond Wang (Ke Huy Quan), Chinese immigrants struggling to keep their family together and their laundry business afloat amid a messy Internal Revenue Service audit and the threat from an evil, universe-jumping force.

To the laundromat's regulars, though, the place belongs to the real-life couple who gave it its name: Kenny and Irene Majers.

They will ask Kenny about the new faces. He tells them they're fans of the movie "Everything Everywhere All at Once."

"What movie?" most grumpily respond.

The significance of the moment isn't lost on the owners. "Everything Everywhere" is a multifaceted mirror in which viewers' experiences, feelings and identities are reflected back at themselves. Kenny and Irene included.

After all, the business is where, for the last two decades, the couple have done their laundry and taxes together.

Kenny's grandfather built the laundromat from the ground up in 1983, in the lot adjoining the family's liquor store. An album Kenny keeps inside his office contains grainy photos of his grandfather piling cinder blocks and his father helping install the roofing.

When Kenny's grandfather died in 1997, his father inherited the laundromat and looked to sell it. By then, the business had fallen into disrepair and had very few customers. But Kenny's longtime dream was to have his own business. He quit his job as a waiter at a casino in Bell Gardens and managed to talk his dad out of selling. Kenny leased it out from his father until his death several years later.

In 2000, Kenny took a trip to Mexico City with some friends for a Morrissey concert. Through a mutual friend, Kenny and Irene met, a moment that Irene still struggles to find words for.

"When I saw my husband for the first time, I felt like I knew him for a long time," Irene said. "It was weird."

Before meeting Kenny, Irene had no aspirations to move to the U.S. Yet the impression was enough for her to upend her life in Mexico, leaving her parents and career as a jazz vocalist with a successful ensemble.

Over the next 20 years, the couple worked side by side, building the business into a fixture of the community and raising their only child, a daughter, Kaylyn. Irene did much of the office work, writing checks to employees, paying bills, preparing tax documents and labeling products for sale. Kenny handled the machinery, repairing broken parts and purchasing and installing new washers and dryers.

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JAY L. CLENDENIN Los Angeles Times

FOR SIX days in March 2020, Majers Coin Laundry in San Fernando served as the laundromat featured in the Oscar-nominated film starring Michelle Yeoh.

The family weathered the ups and downs of the business, from inflated gas prices after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 to the loss of customers since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and, now, surging bills from Southern California Gas Co.

Similar to Waymond, who fought with kindness, Irene describes the cheery Kenny, who offers advice to customers on the most efficient ways to wash their clothes, as "a really nice guy."

When the business needed extra cash, Kenny found side work servicing washing machines at competing laundromats — and taught their owners how to service the equipment themselves. Over time, his client list shrank.

"It wasn't about that," Kenny said of the potential profits lost. "I like to help people."

Irene called herself "a little bit more tough, more strict."

"I'm like Michelle [Yeoh]," she said. "When I saw Michelle in the office sitting down, or talking to the customers, trying to push Kenny, like she does. It's ironic, but it's true."

When writing the laundromat into the script, co-director Kwan drew inspiration from his father's family, who after immigrating to the U.S. from Hong Kong owned a similar laundromat with an apartment attached as a second story.

For the movie, images of the apartment were artificially added to the top for exterior shots to reflect Kwan's childhood memories. But Majers Coin Laundry is a single-story facility.

The large wooden door inside the laundromat that acts as an entrance to the apartment in the film is there, but it opens to a boiler room and supply closet.

It's one of the first differences Josh Delson, a video game developer from San Gabriel, noticed when he visited the laundromat in April after watching "Everything Everywhere" for the first time. He's since seen the movie at least 25 times.

"It kind of felt like visiting an old friend," Delson said. "It felt like I had a connection to the laundromat in a weird way. It felt like a weird, nostalgic thing, even though

[See **Laundromat,** A9]

GEORGE EASTMAN
JOHNNY GRANT
EARL LESTZ

ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

GOLD RUSH

Crews deliver an outsize Oscar statue Saturday as preparations for the 95th Academy Awards continue on Hollywood Boulevard. The ceremony, held at the Dolby Theatre, will air on ABC at 5 p.m.

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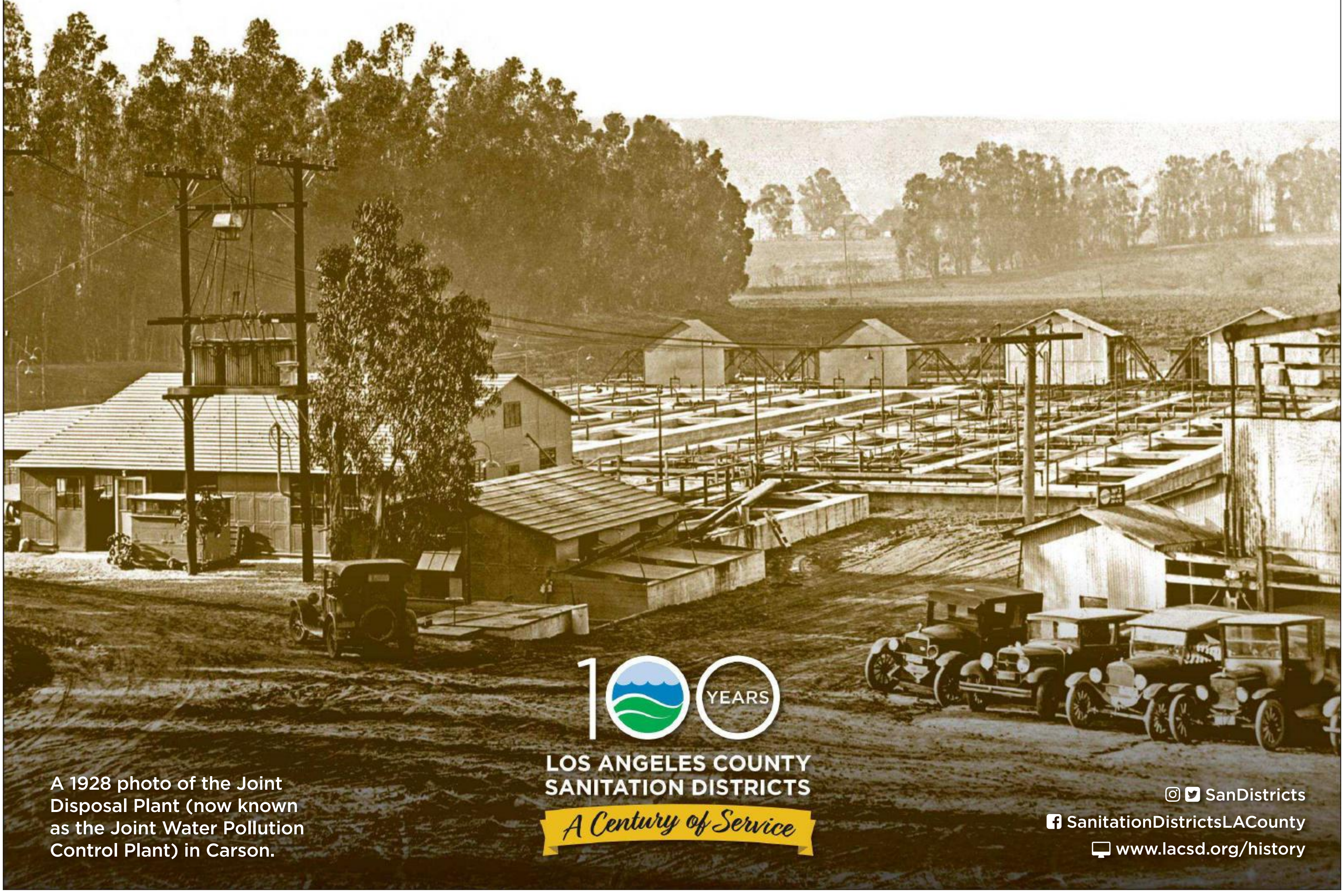

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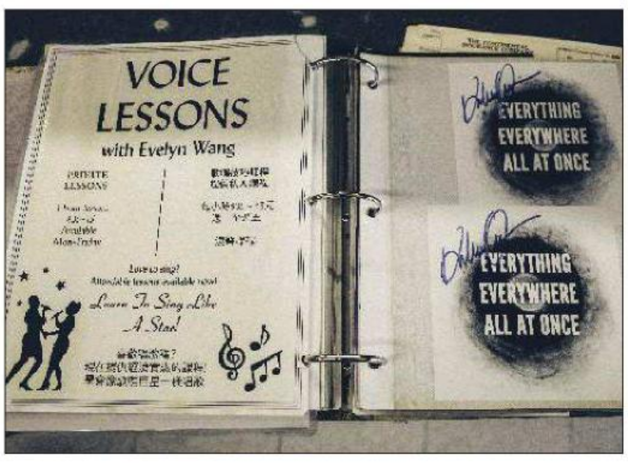
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JAY L. CLENDENIN Los Angeles Times

KENNY MAJERS kept a binder of prop items, like an ad for voice lessons, and autographed posters.

[**Laundromat,** from A8]

I'd never been there before."

While inside, Delson bought an iced tea from the vending machine and envisioned the film's opening scenes, where the Wangs are bickering after Evelyn and Waymond overhear their daughter, Joy (Stephanie Hsu), venting to her partner, Becky (Tallie Medel), about coming out as queer to her conservative grandfather, played by James Hong.

The scene reminded Delson of his own struggles communicating across the generational divide in his immigrant Filipino American family.

"My parents, when they moved here along with my grandparents, they had different priorities, trying to live the American dream, and be sustainable and just get by," he said. "Well, for me, I could have the opportunity to just go anywhere and try new things."

Similarly, fans Kelly Caballero and maatoombsai'biiboonokamiitaa, which is Siksiká for First Charging Horse, who goes by Yaz, said the film helped them process a difficult decision in their relationship: Caballero, who hails from Santa Ana, was contemplating a move to Florida to pursue a career in the maritime industry. She has since moved, with Yaz remaining in California, where he continues to run his business, Obsidian, which uses graphic design and clothing to fight for Native rights.

After visiting the laundromat on Halloween, in costume as Evelyn and Waymond, the couple sat in their car for an hour, talking about their love for the film and life.

"It was one of those super bittersweet, beautiful moments that you'll remember forever," Caballero said, "and it's attached to that laundromat."

Kenny, who grew up loving movies, geeked out during the shoot himself, chatting with Hong, who would often sit alone at the catering table, and mingling with Yeoh and Quan, whom he remembered from his childhood favorite, "The Goonies."

As the film crew transformed the place, adding new decorations and lighting and rearranging some machines, he chastised set workers who'd step on the delicate tops of his washers. He was also on hand for occasional emergencies, such as fixing a dysfunctional dryer, its loud thumps interrupting a scene.

Irene passed much of the time at a hospital where her sick aunt, who died during production, spent her final days, though she too connected with cast members. As family gathered for drinks and food after the aunt's memorial, Irene received a FaceTime call. On the other end was Kenny, standing alongside one of Irene's favorite actors, Jamie Lee Curtis, who greeted the family.

Days after filming wrapped at the laundromat, COVID-19 closures went into effect. The Majers questioned whether the film would ever be released. Then, in late 2021, one of Kenny's friends texted him the trailer.

Months later, Kenny and Irene watched the movie at an AMC in Burbank with their daughter and a longtime laundry attendant and his wife. As the credits rolled and the theater lights flickered on, Kenny looked over at Irene and Kaylyn as tears flowed from their eyes. In Evelyn and Joy's relationship, Kenny and Irene saw their relationship with Kaylyn, who is now a high school senior.

Kenny held back his tears at the theater, though. His moment of catharsis came during the film's production at the laundromat.

During filming, Kenny would watch the scenes unfold from monitors, usually set up inside his office.

One evening, the cast and crew were shooting a scene from the end of the movie, where Evelyn is chasing after Joy outside the laundromat. After airing their grievances, the two choose to love and accept each other, ending in a teary embrace.

"I just started bawling," Kenny said. "I had to go to my car and just sit there and cry, because that's 25 years of me bringing my daughter in here, and I saw parts of my life when they were filming.

"Some times were hard. Some times were difficult and tough."

As "Everything Everywhere" continues its historic run through awards season, Kenny and Irene both feel they are participating from afar.

"We'll be forever connected — this laundromat will be forever connected — to that, making history," said Kenny, referring to the groundbreaking nominations and wins for the film's majority Asian cast.

"I'm proud," said Irene, who now is a registered nurse in a local hospital oncology unit. "I'm proud of my husband ... and I'm proud of my laundromat."

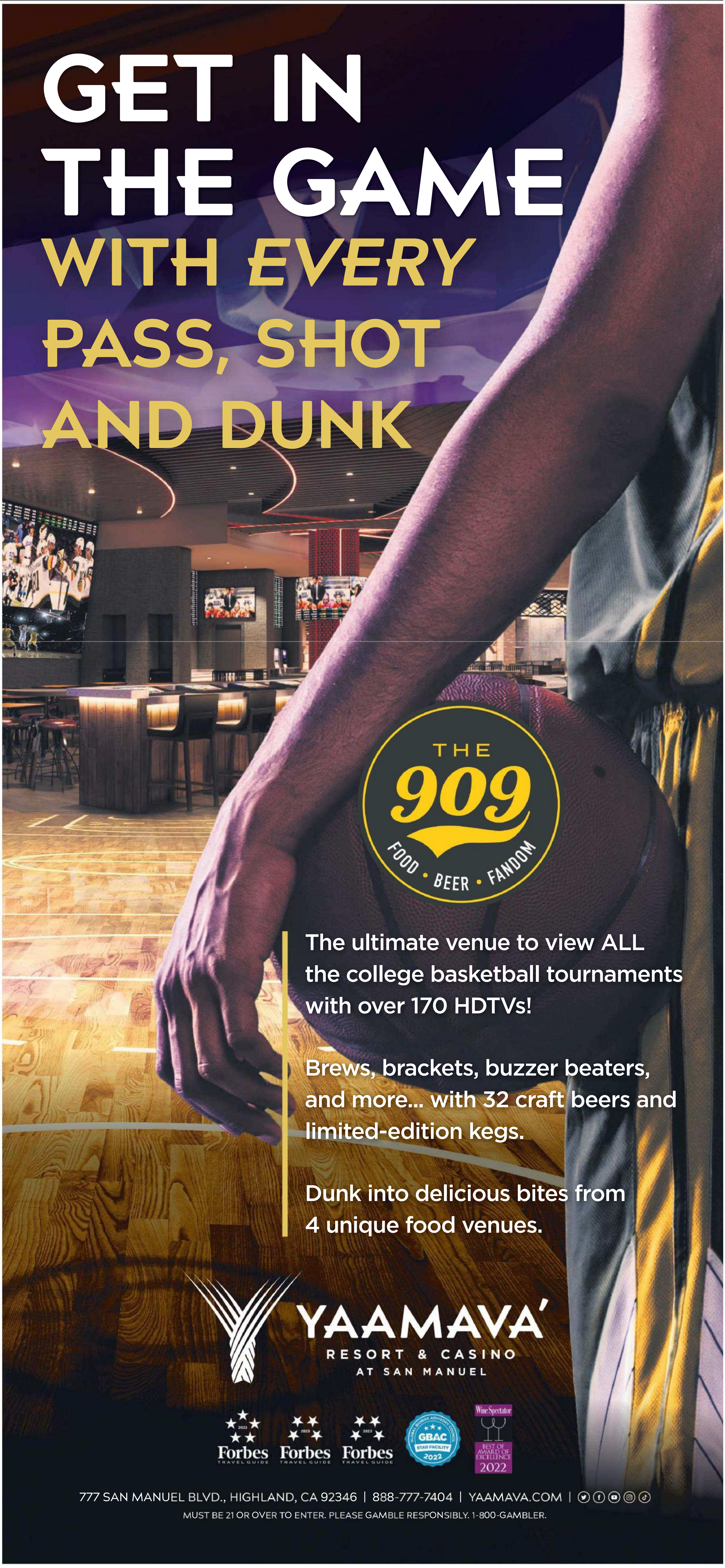
There are few indications that the film was shot inside Majers. There's no plaque or photos to commemorate it. But there are subtle remnants: the dented washer from a scene where Yeoh tees off with a baseball bat, which the production donated to Kenny; signs written in Chinese advising customers not to overload the washing machines with clothes.

Kenny keeps an Easter egg he planted in his office during filming that made it into the movie: a plastic restaurant table number, 22. He said it's has been his lucky number since childhood and has remained a talisman of sorts, helping him process the grief of losing both his parents. "It lets me know that everything's gonna be OK," he said.

While Kenny reminisces about the film shoot from inside his office, smiling, a steady stream of regulars flows in. They are, at this point, more like friends. Some grew up in the laundromat and now bring their children there. They've built weekly routines around chatting with Kenny: One, Jeff, solves an L.A. Times crossword puzzle while his clothes are washing every Tuesday morning.

People often ask Kenny, who just turned 50, when he plans on retiring. He scoffs at the idea. He wouldn't know what to do with himself.

"I'm happy," Kenny said. "That's why I'm still here."



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Illustrations by CLAY RODERY For The Times

FBI investigation is stained by an agent's wild weekend in Vegas

[**Operation,** from A1]

The investigation was hailed as a watershed moment in men's college basketball. But in an extensive reassessment, The Times examined thousands of pages of court testimony, intercepted phone calls, text messages, emails and performance reviews. The records provide a detailed look inside the high-profile investigation, led by a veteran FBI agent whose conduct on a vodka-soaked day in Las Vegas landed him on the wrong side of the law.

Ballerz was the top priority for the New York FBI's public corruption squad for almost a year, according to Carpenter's performance review in 2017, and included two undercover agents, operations in at least eight states, dozens of grand jury subpoenas and thousands of wiretapped phone calls.

The performance review and other court records offer new details about the lead case agent's role and provide the most comprehensive account to date of the FBI's handling of an investigation that, for all its hype, focused on lesser-known coaches and middlemen, most of them Black.

The weight of the federal government crashed down on college basketball at a livestreamed news conference in Manhattan when authorities unveiled the investigation in September 2017. The assistant director in charge of the New York FBI office warned potential cheaters that "we have your playbook."

FBI agents, some with weapons drawn, had arrested 10 men, including assistant coaches from USC, Arizona, Auburn and Oklahoma State. Prosecutors alleged that the coaches took bribes and, in a related scheme, that Adidas representatives funneled money to lure players to colleges the company sponsored.

Major universities and shoe companies were deluged with subpoenas. Coaches retained attorneys, even if they hadn't been charged, and rumors swirled about the government's next target in its crusade to clean up the sport.

Carpenter's performance review said the "takedown has already had a major national impact and … is likely to continue to." Prosecutors characterized the effort in a court filing as "arguably the biggest and most significant federal investigation and prosecution of corruption in college athletics."

But almost six years later, the operation that was supposed to expose college basketball's "dark underbelly" didn't transform the sport. No head coaches or administrators were charged. There wasn't a public outcry.

Instead, the effort seemed at times like an investigation searching for a crime, marshaling vast resources to ultimately round up low-level figures for alleged wrongdoing — particularly the coach bribery scheme — that people involved in the sport said wasn't a common practice until the FBI started handing out envelopes of cash.

"This was a massive waste of time on everybody's part," said Jonathan Bradley Augustine, a former Florida youth basketball coach who was among those charged, though the charges were later dismissed. "It was a sexy case. This was big news. It was everywhere. … A lot of money wasted. A lot of people's lives turned upside down."

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The saga started more than a decade ago with a Pittsburgh financial advisor and two ill-fated movie projects.

Louis Martin Blazer III, whose clients included professional athletes, had pumped money into two minor films. "A Resurrection," which was about a youngster who thinks his brother is returning from the dead, earned just $10,730 at the box office. The other movie, "Mafia," went straight to DVD with the tagline: "He crossed the wrong cop."

To bankroll the investments along with funding a music management company, the Securities and Exchange Commission later alleged, Blazer misappropriated $2.3 million from five clients between 2010 and 2012, forging documents, making "Ponzi-like payments" to hide the theft, faking a client's signature and lying to investigators.

Seeking leniency, Blazer met with federal prosecutors and the SEC in New York in June 2014. He came clean about the fraud — and volunteered details about an unrelated scheme prosecutors didn't know about in which he had paid about two dozen college athletes to use his financial services firm when they turned professional. This could have rendered the players ineligible under NCAA rules and left their schools vulnerable to sanctions.

That fall, prosecutors put Blazer to work as a cooperating witness posing as a financial advisor trying to sign up college athletes as clients. He traveled the country to meet with agents, coaches, athletes and their family members, while recording conversations.

Blazer's undercover operation had stalled by the time the FBI took over in November 2016, though the bureau saw "major unrealized potential" in the case, according to Carpenter's performance review. Carpenter was transferred from the Eurasian organized crime squad to take over as the lead case agent on the basketball probe.

Raised in New Jersey as the son of a municipal judge and lawyer, Carpenter graduated from Wake Forest in the top of his ROTC class and served in Iraq as an officer with the 82nd Airborne. Carpenter's annual officer evaluation in 2008 described his performance during 15 months in Baghdad as "absolutely phenomenal," with an "ability to turn chaos into order." He left the Army that year as a captain, lived on the family's sailboat and joined the FBI.

But signs of trouble began to emerge.

"He had started to become reliant on vodka," his father, Frank Carpenter, would later write in a letter filed in court. "Whenever I saw him, he either had a drink or I could smell it on his breath. I still did not connect this to bigger mental health issues or the symptoms of PTSD that I learned about later."

A court filing blamed his heavy drinking on the emotional toll from the lengthy deployment in Iraq and an improvised explosive device destroying the Humvee behind his vehicle.

At work, however, the complexities of the basketball probe appeared to be an ideal match for the skills of Scott Carpenter, who had worked on the high-profile investigation into global soccer corruption. His performance review said Blazer had previously been "unsuccessful in developing evidence," but became "highly productive" under Carpenter's direction.

Without Carpenter, the performance review said, "it is likely there would have been minimal if any investigative results."

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Jeff D'Angelo had money and wanted to invest it in a sports management company. The exact source of his wealth wasn't clear. Wherever it came from, he talked like someone who orchestrated major deals.

The thirty-something slicked back his hair, liked to mention he served in the military and had the thick biceps of a workout fiend.

One person who met D'Angelo described him as a "mix between a hedge fund baby and Jersey Shore Italian."

In fact, "D'Angelo" was a pseudonym. He was an undercover FBI agent. Carpenter served as D'Angelo's handler. The lead case agent's performance review lauded the work, saying that the undercover agent "had the resources and guidance to significantly expand this investigation" thanks to Carpenter.

In mid-May 2017, D'Angelo was introduced at a Manhattan restaurant to Christian Dawkins, an ambitious 24-year-old attempting to start a sports management firm.

"If it makes sense … I'll invest," D'Angelo said.

Dawkins had grown up in Saginaw, Mich., the son of a basketball coach and middle school principal, and hoped to become a sports agent or college coach. As a teenager, he started a high school basketball scouting service called "Best of the Best" and peddled it to college coaches for $600 a year. He was a relentless self-promoter, mentioning himself in prospect updates, adding inches to his true height and listing himself among "standout campers" at a clinic run by his father.

After the 2009 death of his younger brother Dorian from a heart ailment while playing basketball, Dawkins helped start a youth travel team named Dorian's Pride. He created an event company called Living Out Your Dreams — LOYD for short — named himself chief executive and organized basketball camps.

Just shy of 21, Dawkins joined a Cleveland financial advisory firm working with NBA players. He later moved to New Jersey-based ASM Sports, recruiting clients for the powerhouse sports agency.

Dawkins continued to pursue the goal of leading his own sports management company. He connected with Blazer through a bespoke suit maker with deep links to professional basketball. Dawkins outlined his ambition in an email to Blazer and another associate in April 2016 that, like secret recordings of their meetings, ended up in the hands of authorities: "I want to have my own support system, and I want to be able to facilitate things on my own, independent of ASM. … I just have to have the resources to continue."

After the SEC accused Blazer of defrauding professional athletes in a news release the following month, Blazer testified that Dawkins "didn't want to be around" him for almost a year.

In the meantime, Dawkins paid players and their families to retain ASM, according to his court testimony and exhibits, used two phones to stay in touch with some of the biggest names in the sport and relaxed in the green room at the NBA draft as players waited to be selected. When an associate joked in a text message that Dawkins seemed to be everywhere, he responded with apparent pride, "But never seen."

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On a windy afternoon in June 2017, Dawkins boarded a yacht moored at the North Cove Marina in Manhattan's Battery Park.

He expected to finalize the launch of his sports management company. In reality, the gathering was a setup. Everything was recorded. Among those in attendance were Blazer and D'Angelo, who introduced Dawkins to a wealthy friend named Jill Bailey. She was another undercover FBI agent.

In the agreement signed that day, D'Angelo pledged to lend $185,000 to the company in exchange for a minority stake. Dawkins got 50% of the firm called Loyd Inc. and would be president. The company didn't have a licensed NBA player agent, formal structure or even an office. D'Angelo — whose name was misspelled in the contract — handed out $25,000 in cash for the company's start-up expenses.

D'Angelo wanted to pay college coaches to direct their players to use the new company when they became professionals, saying if the firm had "X amount of coaches that are on board with our business plan … that's just that many more kids we're gonna have access to." Dawkins was skeptical. If the investor insisted on paying coaches, he argued, only "elite-level dudes" should get money. Still, Dawkins offered to introduce D'Angelo to several coaches the following month when they flooded Las Vegas for a youth basketball tournament.

> 'This was a massive waste of time on everybody's part. It was a sexy case. This was big news. … A lot of people's lives turned upside down.'
>
> — JONATHAN BRADLEY AUGUSTINE, a former Florida youth basketball coach who was among those charged

In the days and weeks that followed, Dawkins complained to associates in recorded conversations that bribing coaches was nonsensical. The best players usually spent less than a year on campus before leaving and had limited time with coaches. Parents, close relatives, youth coaches or middlemen, like Dawkins, exerted the real influence in the daily lives of many top-level players.

A system built around the NCAA's ban on paying players and their families was lucrative for everyone but the people on the court. The NCAA brought in $761 million from the March Madness tournament in 2017. Multinational shoe companies paid universities to wear their gear. Top head coaches earned $4 million or more a year. It all helped to nurture a thriving underground economy with bidding wars for top players to attend universities, retain agents and sign with financial advisors.

The distribution of aboveboard money reflected only part of the power imbalance. While 81% of Division I athletic directors and 70% of men's basketball head coaches were white in 2017, 56% of their players were Black. If the 47% of assistant coaches who were Black had a prayer of landing a head coaching job — or remaining employed — they needed to land top-level players.

The four college assistant coaches charged in Ballerz — and eight of the 10 initial defendants, including Dawkins — are Black.

"When you're a Black assistant coach, man, you've got the world on your shoulders," said Merl Code, a former college basketball player who worked for Adidas and Nike and became a target of the sting. "If you don't get kids, then you don't keep your job. But if you don't do what's necessary to get kids, you're not going to be successful, and what's necessary to get the kids is to help the family."

In conversations with D'Angelo, who is white, Dawkins maintained that paying coaches to influence their athletes wasn't "the end-all be-all."

"I'm more powerful," Dawkins told him, "than any coach you're going to meet."

The dispute came to a head during another recorded phone call a few weeks after the yacht meeting.

"If you just want to be Santa Claus and just give people money, well f—, let's just take that money and just go to the strip club and just buy hookers," Dawkins told D'Angelo. "But just to pay guys just for the sake of paying a guy just because he's at a school, that doesn't make common sense to me."

D'Angelo wasn't swayed. The investigation was built around ensnaring coaches.

"Here, here, here, here's the model," D'Angelo stammered.

He had the money, he said. They would pay coaches.

"I respect that … you don't think that's the best approach, but that's what I'm doing," D'Angelo said in the call. "That's just what it's going to be."

Afterward, Dawkins vented to Code in a wiretapped phone call that throwing cash at a slew of coaches meant spending lots of money for no discernible purpose.

"We're just going to take these fools' money," Code said.

"Exactly," Dawkins replied.

During a call with an associate in early July, Dawkins wondered aloud if he should find someone to pay back the money D'Angelo had invested in Loyd and end their relationship. The investor's odd requests, like wanting to meet players and their parents, unnerved Dawkins. He wondered why D'Angelo cared so much.

"People are gonna think that honestly they're being set up," Dawkins said in the recorded call.

But he still wanted D'Angelo's cash. A few days after the call, Dawkins and Code faced a problem. Prosecutors alleged they had agreed to help funnel cash from an Adidas company employee to the family of a touted high school prospect who had agreed to play for an Adidas-sponsored university. An installment had been delayed. D'Angelo agreed to provide a loan of $25,000.

The payment came at a critical point in the investigation, according to Carpenter's performance review. He pushed for it to preserve D'Angelo's "bona fides as a high roller" and "set in motion events which would widely expand the case from addressing bribery by NCAA coaches to incorporating the illegal conduct of officials at a major international sportswear company."

As the Las Vegas trip approached, Code and Dawkins brainstormed which coaches could meet D'Angelo, but Code's unease about the investor was growing.

"I'm looking up Jeff D'Angelo and I can't find nothing on him," Code told Dawkins in a phone call on July 24, 2017, "and that s— is really concerning to me."

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Carpenter flew to Las Vegas on July 27, 2017, accompanied by a supervisor, junior agent and the undercover operative — and having "serious misgivings" about

[See **Operation,** A11]

[**Operation,** from A10]

whether he had enough personnel to run the operation.

Over three days, D'Angelo, Dawkins and Blazer met with 11 coaches — 10 college assistants and one youth coach, all in town for the youth tournament — at the Cosmopolitan. The trendy hotel that advertised "Just the right amount of wrong" seemed to be the ideal setting.

Augustine, the Florida youth coach, recalled that Blazer fixed him a vodka water when he stopped by the penthouse on the first night. The opulent surroundings staggered the coach. His players were jammed into rooms at a budget-friendly hotel. The penthouse appeared to be a different world. Black marble and dark wood. Quirky art around every corner, like the enormous photo of a golden-hued woman dancing underwater in a swirl of purple fabric.

Augustine received an envelope from D'Angelo stuffed with $12,700, according to the complaint. The next day, Augustine said he deposited much of the cash at a nearby bank and, since his players had flown to Las Vegas on one-way tickets, used some of the windfall to pay their way home. Augustine said he used the remainder to pay down debt he had accumulated while running the team. He was later charged with four felonies, but all counts were dropped.

The hidden agendas at play in the penthouse seemed tailor-made for Sin City. D'Angelo distributed envelopes of bribe money as cameras recorded each transaction. But Dawkins later claimed he had arranged for three of the coaches to give him their would-be bribe money so he could run the company his way.

Dawkins pleaded with Preston Murphy, then a Creighton University assistant coach and longtime family friend, to meet with D'Angelo in the penthouse, saying he would be forced to move in with his parents if the financial backers didn't support him, according to Murphy's attorney.

"I needed him to basically help me, you know, continue to get funding," Dawkins testified.

NCAA investigators said in reports that Murphy and TCU assistant coach Corey Barker knew before their meetings in the penthouse on July 28 that they would be paid and had agreed to give all of the money to Dawkins. Prosecutors alleged Murphy and Barker each received $6,000 from D'Angelo. Murphy handed the cash over to Dawkins in a bathroom off the main casino floor, while Barker did the same near the hotel's valet parking stand, according to accounts they gave to the NCAA. The same day, Dawkins deposited $5,000 in cash into the Loyd bank account. (Neither Barker nor Murphy was charged.)

Shortly after midnight on July 29, Tony Bland, a USC assistant coach, sank into a couch in the penthouse. The conversation sounded like the others — boasts about influence over college players, banter about prospects with a shot at the NBA.

"I have some guys that I bring in that I can just say, this is what you're f— doing," Bland said. "And there's other guys who we'll have to work a little harder for, but we'll still have a heavy influence on what they do."

Hidden-camera footage shows Dawkins, not Bland, pick up an envelope of cash from the coffee table. The federal criminal complaint alleged Bland — making more than $300,000 a year at USC — got the $13,000 in the envelope. But bank records show Dawkins deposited $8,900 at an ATM later that day. Bland eventually pleaded guilty to receiving $4,100.

Dawkins testified that the actual amount Bland received was less because he only gave Bland "between $1,000 and $2,000" to spend at a bachelor party that night.

For the final undercover meeting, the FBI team had rented a poolside cabana at the Cosmopolitan. Afterward, the agents decided to use the cabana for themselves when they learned the $1,500 they paid for the space was actually a food and beverage minimum, according to a court filing.

"Despite the obstacles, all of the undercover meetings were very successful," Carpenter's attorney wrote in a court filing. "At the same time, there is no doubt that the intensity, anxiety, elation and exhaustion of the weekend's activities left Mr. Carpenter in an even more precarious position."

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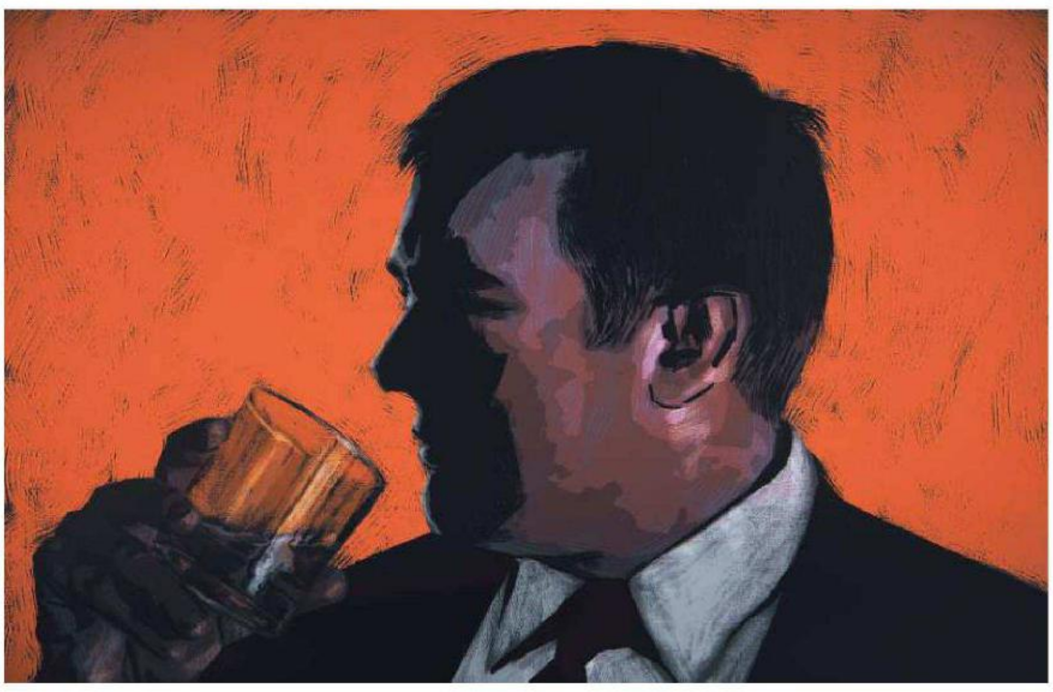
After changing clothes in the penthouse following the alcohol-filled afternoon at the cabana, the four FBI agents walked to the Bellagio Hotel and Casino and ended up at a high-limit lounge.

Carpenter bought $10,000 in gambling chips with the cash he had taken from the safe and started playing blackjack. The three other agents — including Carpenter's supervisor — watched him gamble from an adjacent bar and took turns visiting, according to court testimony and a filing by his attorney, as Carpenter gulped free drinks and lost.

"They at least had to have a decent idea it was undercover FBI money and nobody took the keys to the car," Carpenter's attorney, Paul Fishman, said in court.



Illustrations by Clay Rodery For The Times

> 'He had started to become reliant on vodka. Whenever I saw him, he either had a drink or I could smell it on his breath. I still did not connect this to bigger mental health issues.'
>
> — Frank Carpenter, Scott Carpenter's father, in a letter filed in court

Carpenter churned through the $10,000, then pressed the undercover agent — D'Angelo — for additional government cash. He handed it over.

According to a court filing, Carpenter played for two to three hours, placed an average bet of $721 and, by the time he walked away, had lost $13,500.

As the alcohol wore off in the early hours of July 30, Carpenter paced around the penthouse. According to a document read in court, one of the agents told an investigator that Carpenter was brainstorming how to make it right and asked if they could say the gambling was part of the operation. The agent refused.

The undercover agent alleged that the four agents met early that morning and "there was a discussion ... to just take care of it," Assistant U.S. Atty. Daniel Schiess said in court. The supervisor and junior agent, Schiess said, "hotly contest" that such a meeting occurred.

In a court filing, Carpenter's attorney wrote that his client "vehemently disagrees" that he "intended in any way to conceal his conduct or evade responsibility."

After returning to New York, Schiess said, Carpenter met with his supervisor about the missing money and, afterward, told the undercover agent and the junior agent he was going to try to pay it back and asked if they could split the cost. The other agents and Carpenter's supervisor who was in Las Vegas aren't identified in court records.

Two days later, Carpenter was transferred from the public corruption squad and college basketball investigation. He checked into an inpatient alcohol treatment program the following week, according to a court filing.

D'Angelo was also pulled from the case. He told Dawkins in a phone call Aug. 8 that he was traveling to care for his ailing mother in Italy.

Carpenter's performance review from 2017 devoted one paragraph to the incident: "Carpenter appeared to have displayed poor judgment in some of his operational security practices and behavior ... [he] did not immediately or in a timely manner report events constituting potential misuse of funds to his chain of command."

Nevertheless, the review rated Carpenter's overall performance as "successful."

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Heavy footsteps woke Bland almost two months later in Tampa, Fla., early on the morning of Sept. 26. Someone pounded on the door of his hotel room. Bland got out of bed and opened the door. A team of FBI agents with weapons drawn burst into the room. One of them twisted his right arm behind his back — the arm still doesn't feel right today, Bland said — and shoved him against a wall.

Around the same time, Code answered the door at his home in Greer, S.C., in his underwear. He counted at least 20 FBI agents, some brandishing pistols and assault-style rifles, and 15 vehicles lined up on his block.

Augustine, the Florida youth coach, had planned to meet Dawkins that morning at a New York hotel. He checked his phone on the walk over and found scores of tweets mentioning him, then scrolled through the criminal complaint against him while standing in Times Square. He thought it was some kind of elaborate, twisted joke. Then the FBI called and, a half-hour later, arrested him.

Similar scenes played out across the country. At the news conference in Manhattan the same day, the acting U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York alleged the defendants had circled "blue-chip prospects like coyotes."

The four college assistant coaches who were charged lost their jobs. Augustine resigned from the youth team and swept floors in his father-in-law's warehouse to make ends meet.

Carpenter kept his badge, service weapon and security clearance after returning from the alcohol treatment program. But he was exiled to a facilities squad to help manage a remodeling project at the FBI office in New York.

Judges in the two Ballerz trials barred defense attorneys from questioning witnesses about alleged misconduct by agents during the Las Vegas trip. One of the judges ruled that it "did not occur while the agents were conducting investigative activities" and was "irrelevant to this case."

Though Carpenter and the agents posing as D'Angelo and Bailey were subpoenaed, they didn't testify. In the first trial, Code, Dawkins and a former Adidas employee were convicted of using payments to steer players to attend three universities sponsored by the sportswear giant. Then Code and Dawkins were found guilty during the second trial, which focused on the alleged scheme to bribe coaches to persuade their players to use the sports management company that the undercover agent had helped finance.

The investigation led to 10 men being convicted of felonies at trial or by taking plea deals. Five were sentenced to prison. Dawkins got the longest combined term — 18 months and a day.

After Dawkins' sentencing, prosecutors released a statement warning that the outcome "should make crystal clear to other members of the basketball underground exposed during the various prosecutions brought by this Office that bribery is still a crime, even if the recipient is a college basketball coach, and one that will result in [a] term of incarceration."

Bland had been placed on administrative leave by USC after being arrested, then was terminated about four months later. He pleaded guilty in 2019 to a felony, conspiracy to commit bribery, and was sentenced to probation. Prosecutors argued that USC faced "significant potential penalties from the NCAA" because of his conduct, echoing claims they made in sentencing memorandums for other defendants.

The cases were built around the theory that universities were the victims. Prosecutors argued the schools had been deceived into issuing scholarships to athletes who would be ineligible under NCAA rules barring payments to players or their families. They also argued the schools had been exposed to penalties for other rule-breaking, including a prohibition on coaches and other employees benefiting from introducing athletes to agents, financial advisors or their representatives.

In a victim impact statement filed in court, USC said the school, "its student athletes, and college athletics as a whole have suffered greatly because of what Mr. Bland and his co-conspirators did." The school's statement came at a time when USC was already reeling from its involvement in the Varsity Blues college admissions scandal and allegations that a campus gynecologist had sexually abused hundreds of students.

In the years since Ballerz became public, several universities have been sanctioned by the NCAA in connection with the investigation, but the penalties have largely been lighter than the "significant" punishments prosecutors warned about in sentencing memorandums for the defendants. USC, for example, received two years of probation and was fined $5,000 plus 1% of the men's basketball budget.

More significantly, some longstanding NCAA rules have shifted. College athletes can now profit from their name, image and likeness, known as NIL. Last year, Adidas unveiled a nationwide NIL program for athletes at schools sponsored by the company.

Jay Bilas, a former Duke basketball player who is an attorney and ESPN television analyst, called the investigation a waste of time and resources.

"It seemed like bringing in the National Guard to deal with jaywalkers," Bilas said. "It damaged people's lives over nothing."

The FBI declined to comment for this story.

Blazer, who originally told prosecutors he could expose college sports corruption, pleaded guilty to five charges — for misappropriating money from five clients and paying college football players to retain his financial advisory firm — and was sentenced to one year of probation in February 2020. He admitted misappropriating $2.35 million from clients — much more than all the bribes combined in Ballerz.

Today, Bland coaches basketball at St. Bernard High School in Playa del Rey. He said he is eager to return to coaching in college when a three-year penalty imposed by the NCAA expires in April 2024.

He struggles to sleep in hotel rooms, his heart pounds if there's an unexpected noise in a hallway, and he can't get past the allegations against the lead case agent in Las Vegas.

"It's like, OK, [the FBI] can mess up ... and still run you over," Bland said. "It doesn't even matter."

Code wrote a book about college basketball's underbelly called "Black Market" before serving five months and nine days in prison.

"If anyone thinks that there is such a thing as a clean big-time program, they need to wake up and smell the donkey s—," he wrote in the book.

Book Richardson, a former University of Arizona assistant coach, was sentenced to three months in prison in the case. He now makes $3,000 a month working with youth basketball players in New York. He has kidney disease and said he contemplated suicide on two occasions in the years following his arrest — once when he put a pistol in his mouth but was interrupted by a phone call from a friend.

"Your mind starts messing with you, man," Richardson said. "'Maybe I am the scum of the earth. Maybe I am the worst coach ever. I threw my life away for $20,000. I should be dead.'"

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Carpenter was transferred to a counterintelligence squad in October 2020, the same month he and his wife bought a home listed at 3,200 square feet with a swimming pool in suburban New Jersey.

On Dec. 13, 2021, the Supreme Court denied the final appeal related to the Ballerz investigation. Four days later, Carpenter signed an agreement to plead guilty to a misdemeanor charge of conversion of government money for gambling away the $13,500. The agreement and his presentencing memo detail the events surrounding his misconduct in Las Vegas. The FBI suspended Carpenter after he pleaded guilty, then terminated him in May.

Steve Haney, the attorney for Dawkins, learned about Carpenter's plea in a news release and moved for a new trial for his client. But a judge rejected the motion, finding the "misconduct did not concern the defendants."

Last August, Carpenter returned to Las Vegas to be sentenced. He was contrite during brief remarks at the hearing: "Five years ago, I made a terrible and stupid mistake. ... While there isn't an excuse for what I did, there's an explanation: The combination of job stress, alcohol and lingering issues from my military service."

Fishman, Carpenter's attorney, characterized the blackjack episode as an isolated error in an otherwise exemplary life. He told U.S. District Judge Gloria M. Navarro that Carpenter returned from Iraq "not quite right" and has been "hellbent" on righting his wrong. The judge interjected during Fishman's argument that his client had not been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Navarro told Carpenter he had "already received a lot of lenience." He wasn't immediately fired, hadn't been arrested, kept being paid — he and his wife reported an income of $411,000 on their 2020 tax return, the judge said — and wasn't even on pretrial supervision, something the judge couldn't recall for a defendant in her courtroom. She sentenced him to three months of home confinement and ordered him to repay the government money. Carpenter declined to comment.

The status of the three FBI agents who accompanied him to Las Vegas is unclear.

The Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General, which investigated the Las Vegas misconduct along with the U.S. attorney's office in Nevada, has declined to comment on the case and refused to turn over any records in response to Freedom of Information Act requests, saying to do so could interfere with enforcement proceedings.

Meanwhile, Dawkins is serving his sentence at a low-security federal prison in North Carolina and is scheduled for release in May.

Before reporting to prison, Dawkins founded another company. Unlike the ill-fated venture backed by undercover FBI agents, Par-Lay Sports and Entertainment has a veteran management team that includes his defense attorney. A teenage phenom named Scoot Henderson, projected to be the second overall pick in June's NBA draft, is one of the firm's clients.

The draft will be held in Brooklyn, N.Y., some three miles from the courthouse where Dawkins' life was upended and the room where the FBI boasted they had the "playbook" for college basketball corruption.

Dawkins, his attorney said, is expected to attend.

Scan this code with your phone to watch reporter Nathan Fenno explain the details of this investigation in a video.

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O.C. crew helps in Tulare

[**Tulare,** from A1]
and began digging the cat rescuer out of a pit.

Soaked, sweating fiercely and a bit embarrassed by all the attention, Stinson thanked firefighter Jason Trevino, Capt. Chris Stevens and the others who delivered him back to solid ground.

"I am just thankful they were here," said Stinson, a cook for a hospital. "It was looking pretty dim. Fifty-two, and you die right there, on your own property? That's pretty sad. This gives a whole new meaning to life right now."

The save by the 17-man Orange County crew epitomized the work being done all over California by rescue squads deployed by the state Office of Emergency Services. They completed at least 100 rescues late last week, amid the latest storm of the state's wettest winter in recent memory.

The Orange County group headed north Thursday. They started their work around Merced, then shifted south Friday and Saturday to Tulare County, where they plucked two stranded 90-somethings from a home in Cutler and evacuated an Exeter family before extracting Stinson from the Tule River goo.

The Southern California squad expected to be deployed at least until Monday and for as long as two weeks — a timeline driven in part by Orange County's own emergency operations guidelines.

After two nights in hotels, the O.C. firefighters drew a 24-hour shift Saturday and expected to camp overnight so they could remain closer to the Tule and other spots made dangerous by a new weather front and the rapid snowmelt warm rain is likely to unleash.

With the sun shining for much of the day Saturday, their Tulare County hosts directed the O.C. group to double-check residences in Springville, where the Tule River had flowed directly into multiple homes Friday morning.

SHMUEL THALER Santa Cruz Sentinel

LIZBETH Hernandez is saved Friday in Watsonville, Calif., after being stranded on the roof of her truck.

William Woodmansee, a retired teacher, walked through two rental houses he owns along the river that had been ruined by water so powerful it tossed around large boulders as if they were made of Styrofoam. A neighbor said the bone-chilling echo of the rocks slamming together sounded "like two semi-trucks colliding."

The 70-something Woodmansee said his own home upriver had been spared, but the two others he maintains as income properties would be difficult to repair.

Flood insurance had been so high, he and his wife had decided to go without.

Uncertain how he would rebuild, the retiree said his worries pale in comparison with the burden on others, including one of his tenants — a mother working three jobs — who did not know where she would move.

A tearful Woodmansee nodded toward the Orange County crew — led by battalion chiefs Brett Buffington and Jason Sultzer — saying the mere presence of the uniformed crews gave some solace.

"We've been evacuated twice in the last four years for fires. Hundreds of homes burned in the last one," he said.

"These first responders come from everywhere, and they are just critical to us up here."

After confirming no one had been stranded near downtown Springville, one of the O.C. squads ventured to the other side of the river. While they were checking a washed out bridge on Globe Drive, two women came running, yelling "Help!"

They pointed Trevino, Stevens and their comrades behind some bushes, where Stinson, a cook for Sierra View District Hospital, was up to his armpits in muck. The water and mud effectively created a vacuum.

As Stinson's anxiety appeared to be spiraling, Trevino — looking at his cap — zinged him: "Dodgers, are you kidding me?"

That may have cut the tension, as Stevens added: "Half an hour at most and we will have you out of here. You'll be having a cold beer. And a warm shower."

With their Tulare County brethren assisting, the southerners built a platform and dug around Stinson to give him room to maneuver. With a rope looped under his armpits, the firefighters pulled him free.

Looking sheepish, Stinson said: "Truly, it's an honor to have them help me out like that."

They had potentially a long night, and perhaps another week or more in the field ahead of them, but the O.C. firefighters seemed satisfied.

"When it comes to the work, they knew what to do and we know their abilities," Buffington said. "And the job gets done."

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Records in Fox case show pressures on reporters

Dominion lawsuit illustrates network's animus toward its own journalists.

By David Bauder

NEW YORK — It wasn't critics, political foes or their bosses that united Fox News stars Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham when they gathered for a gripe session over text message shortly after the 2020 election. It was their own network's news division.

"They're pathetic," Carlson wrote.

"THEY AREN'T SMART," Ingraham emphasized.

"What news have they broken the last four years?" Hannity asked.

The Nov. 13, 2020, text conversation was included among thousands of pages of recently released documents related to Dominion Voting Systems' $1.6-billion defamation lawsuit against Fox for its postelection reporting. Like much of what was uncovered, the exchange ultimately may have little bearing on whether Fox is judged guilty of libel.

Instead, the material offers insight into how Fox's stars and leadership responded at a time of high anxiety and how giving its audience what it wanted to hear took precedence over reporting uncomfortable truths.

The revelations have bolstered critics who say Fox News Channel should be considered a propaganda network rather than a news outlet.

Yet though Fox's news side in recent years has seen the prominent defections of Shepard Smith and Chris Wallace, it still employs many respected journalists, such as Jennifer Griffin, Greg Palkot, John Roberts, Shannon Bream, Bryan Llenas, Jacqui Heinrich and Chad Pergram.

They're left to wonder whether the raft of recent stories about Fox — about the Dominion documents and Carlson's use of U.S. Capitol security video to craft his own narrative of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack — will make their jobs more difficult. Will fewer people want to work with them because of the dominance of Fox's opinion side?

The network says it has increased its investment in journalism by more than 50% under Fox News Media Chief Executive Suzanne Scott and usually leads its rivals in ratings during major breaking stories.

"We are incredibly proud of our team of journalists who continue to deliver breaking news from around the world and will continue to fight for the preservation of the 1st Amendment," the network said in a statement.

The postelection period in 2020 offered a stern test. The network's election night declaration that Joe Biden had won in Arizona, ahead of any other news organizations, infuriated viewers. Many were sympathetic to former President Trump's claims of significant voter fraud, even if there has been no evidence of that.

After she covered a Nov. 19 news conference with Trump lawyer Rudolph W. Giuliani, then-Fox reporter Kristin Fisher said her boss in Washington, Bryan Boughton, called to say he was unhappy with the report. She said she was told to do a better job of "respecting our audience," according to documents released in the Dominion case.

"I believed that I was respecting our audience by telling them the truth," Fisher, who now works at CNN, testified in a deposition.

She later claimed that airtime was taken away from her in retaliation.

Heinrich drew the ire of Fox opinion hosts by tweeting a fact-check on some of Trump's claims. In a text message, Carlson profanely said Heinrich should be fired; Fox said she was later promoted to White House correspondent.

"She has serious nerve doing this," Fox publicity chief Irena Briganti said in an internal memo released among the court papers, "and if this gets picked up, viewers are going to be further disgusted. Her job is to report, not to taunt the president of the United States."

During a Nov. 14 text conversation, Scott and Lachlan Murdoch, the executive chairman and CEO of Fox Corp., talked about how a Trump rally should be covered on the network.

"News guys have to be careful how they cover this rally," Murdoch said. "So far some of the side comments have been slightly anti, and they shouldn't be. The narrative should be this huge celebration of the president."

In another message, he called Fox correspondent Leland Vittert "smug and obnoxious." Vittert now works at NewsNation.

A week after the election, a Fox Corp. senior executive, Raj Shah, said in a memo that "bold, clear and decisive action is needed for us to begin to regain the trust that we're losing with our core audience."

As part of its lawsuit, Dominion argues that nervousness about what viewers wanted led Fox to air allegations that the voting-machine company was complicit in fraud that hurt Trump, even though many people at the network didn't believe the claims. In his own deposition, Fox founder Rupert Murdoch agreed that the election had been fair and "was not stolen."

Fox counters that it was airing newsworthy charges made by the president and his followers.

Concern over the backlash to the Arizona call spread to the news division, according to court documents. Fox News anchor Bret Baier said he was uncomfortable with defending calling the state for Biden and suggested awarding it to Trump. Roberts sent a memo saying he'd been getting "major heat" over the decision.

In 2012, Fox stood strongly behind its decision desk when network commentator and veteran GOP aide Karl Rove questioned its correct call that Barack Obama had won in Ohio, essentially assuring his reelection victory against Republican Mitt Romney. In a memorable television moment, Megyn Kelly marched down the hall to hear the decision desk's explanation for why the call had been made.

Eight years later, signs of timidity at Fox appeared in the days after its Arizona decision. When other news organizations declared Biden the president-elect on the Saturday morning after the election, Fox waited about 15 minutes.

On Nov. 20, 2020, Rupert Murdoch discussed with Scott in a private memo whether two Washington executives key to the Arizona call should be fired, saying it would send a "big message" to Trump allies. The executives, Bill Sammon and Chris Stirewalt, lost their jobs two months later.

A Fox spokeswoman characterized the discussions about the Arizona call as part of a typical postmortem that happens after big news events. Despite "intense scrutiny," Fox stood by its call.

Even though Sammon and Stirewalt were forced out, Fox kept consultant Arnon Mishkin, who has run its decisions desk, for the 2024 election.

> 'If this gets picked up, viewers are going to be further disgusted. Her job is to report, not to taunt the president of the United States.'
>
> — Irena Briganti, Fox publicity chief, on a reporter who tweeted a fact-check on claims by President Trump

Scott, who is answerable to corporate bosses, noted in her deposition that she considers herself a TV producer.

"I don't consider myself a journalist," said the head of Fox News Media. "I consider myself a TV executive. I hire journalists. I hire news people."

Longtime Fox News Channel chief Roger Ailes wasn't a journalist, either — his background was in politics. But some observers note that Ailes recognized that Fox's opinion side drew strength from a solid news side, and he kept stronger barriers between the two.

Some of the information revealed illustrates how, in many ways, Fox has become less of an agenda-setter than an outlet that follows its audience, said Nicole Hemmer, a Vanderbilt University professor and author of "Partisans: The Conservative Revolutionaries Who Remade American Politics in the 1990s."

No one in Fox management has talked about the Dominion case to its journalists, leaving some of the reporters wondering if there is anyone standing up for them, said one who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of professional retribution.

In a brief filed Friday, Fox said many of the exhibits that Dominion has introduced were internal communications, "often inflammatory and headline-grabbing, but irrelevant to any issue in dispute."

"There is some fine journalism still being done at Fox News today," said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania. She cited the transition of "Fox News Sunday" from Wallace to Bream.

The fallout from the Dominion case, however, leaves open the question of whether Fox journalists will be allowed to do their jobs unconstrained by other forces, she said.

"It would be useful for Fox News, at this point, to make a clear statement that the news division has complete and total autonomy and that a clear line is drawn between it and the rest of Fox," Jamieson said.

Bauder writes for the Associated Press.

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Bad news for people: Coronavirus found in N.Y. rats

By Melissa Healy

Rats, whose populations in cities exploded during the pandemic, have now joined the list of wildlife believed to be capable of catching and transmitting the virus that causes COVID-19, new research finds.

In a study published Thursday in the journal mBio, researchers showed that rats — like dogs, cats, hamsters, ferrets and humans' other close cohabitants — can pick up the pandemic virus from their environment.

They don't appear to get very sick; none of the wild rats deliberately infected in a lab lost weight or died as a result. But when the rats were exposed to the Alpha, Delta and Omicron variants of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, researchers found evidence of robust viral replication in the animals' noses, mouths, throats and lungs.

In addition, a detailed examination of 79 so-called brown rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) collected in and around the sewers of New York City turned up telltale signs that 13 had been exposed to the coronavirus and developed an immune response. Indeed, PCR testing of the rats' respiratory tissue suggested that four of the 79 rats had active infections when they were euthanized.

The research was conducted by scientists from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and the University of Missouri. It brings to 11 the number of known wildlife "reservoirs" for the pandemic virus, which has been shown to infect deer, mink, otters, gorillas, lions and tigers as well.

The virus' presence in all those species not only ensures that the coronavirus will never disappear from our midst. But it also raises the possibility that, as the ever-changing virus adapts to new and very different hosts, it will evolve in ways that make it unrecognizable to humans who thought they had become immune to it.

Brown rats, also known as Norway rats, have coexisted with humans for thousands of years and are prolific transmitters of human diseases. Exposure to their feces, urine or saliva is known to spread the hantavirus, leptospirosis, lymphocytic choriomeningitis, tularemia and salmonella.

As the pandemic winds down, the new findings suggest a frightening scenario in which rats, whose populations in U.S. cities have seen explosive growth in the last three years, could become not only a vector for reinfection of humans but also a source of new variants that evade our protection from vaccines or past infections.

If the coronavirus recombines with another virus carried by rats, or if it simply evolves to spread more readily within that population, the result could be a novel pathogen capable of rebooting the pandemic, the study's authors said.

The findings underscore "the need for further monitoring of SARS-CoV-2 in rat populations for potential ... transmission to humans," they wrote.

> There remains the challenge of knowing whether and how infected rats could transmit the coronavirus to humans.

Other researchers have suggested that biological differences between humans and wild rats have made this wildlife population particularly fertile ground for introducing mutations into the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

The authors cite a study that suggests rodents may have played a role in the evolution of the Omicron variant. This surmise is grounded in the fact that some of Omicron's mutations improved the virus' ability to latch on to rodent cells even more than they improved its attachment to human cells. But co-author Henry Wan of the University of Missouri School of Medicine acknowledged "this is still just speculation."

There remains the challenge of knowing whether and how infected rats could transmit the coronavirus to humans.

The study's authors demonstrated that in laboratory conditions, rats infected with a related coronavirus developed infections and shed virus. And, like humans, these rats could be infected repeatedly.

The finding that these infected rats are capable of spreading their germs raises the disconcerting prospect that as free-range rats scurry across surfaces touched by humans, their noses could deposit respiratory secretions that deliver the virus to people. Although aerosol transmission has been the primary means by which the coronavirus has spread among humans, acquiring the virus through touch is a concern as well.

Reflections on 10 years of a different sort of pope

ANDREW MEDICHINI Associated Press

POPE FRANCIS is sunnier, more optimistic and more engaged in the modern world than recent predecessors — “a bit of a Californian,” as former Commonweal Magazine editor Paul Baumann hoped for 10 years ago.

MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

ROSA MANRIQUEZ wants the pope to do more, but figures “he is a creation of the time we are living in.”

MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

JOSEPH McKELLAR was once advised by Francis: “Stay close to the people ... allow them to teach you.”

[**Pope,** from A1]

this guy,’ ” she said. “And then I was like, ‘He’s Latino! Oh my God!’ ”

A decade later, Manriquez says she does not agree with everything Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the former archbishop of Buenos Aires now known as Pope Francis, has said and done. But like many Californians, she has come to respect and even love him.

“I’m not declaring him a saint; I’m not into titles,” she said. “But I think this is the first pope since John XXIII who, rather than saying, ‘Your holiness,’ I would say, ‘My brother.’ ”

After Pope Benedict XVI resigned in February 2013, Paul Baumann, former editor of Commonweal Magazine, wrote that he hoped the next pontiff would be “a bit of a Californian” — sunnier, more optimistic and more willing to engage with the modern world than his recent predecessors. It was a statement that turned out to be prophetic.

In many ways, Pope Francis is a buzzy pontiff in the California style. And being a California *anything* means getting lots of love — and lots of derision and disdain.

He has clashed with the state’s most powerful Catholic leaders — including José Gomez, archbishop of Los Angeles, the largest Catholic diocese in America, and Salvatore Cordileone, archbishop of San Francisco — on the issue of denying communion to political leaders who support abortion rights.

But he is also the first pope to hail from Latin America, a point of pride and connection for many Catholics in a state that is roughly 40% Latino, and he has consistently refused to remain stuck in the hierarchical, traditionalist thinking that has characterized the church’s bureaucracy at the Vatican.

He has prioritized the environment and the poor, struck a more welcoming tone with LGBTQ Catholics, and appointed more women to leadership roles in the Vatican than any pope before him — demonstrating a commitment to values many Californians share. It’s a stance that has gained him enmity.

“The church is on the move, and some people don’t want to be on the move,” said Father Allan Deck, a scholar of theology and Latino studies at Loyola Marymount University. “They want to remain where they are.”

Immediately after his election on March 13, 2013, it was clear the pope “from the end of the world” would be doing things a different way.

He paid his hotel bill in person and then refused the ornate papal penthouse in favor of a more modest two-bedroom apartment. Just months into his papacy, he famously answered a journalist’s question about gay priests with another question: “Who am I to judge?”

More recently, he launched a global synod, or listening process, that encourages the laity to share their thoughts, dreams and hopes about the future of the church.

“He’s much more relatable than any pope in the recent past,” said Jacqueline Powers Doud, president emerita of Mount St. Mary’s College in Los Angeles. “I think he’s trying to embrace people with love and mercy, and that’s a more winning approach than condemning.”

Catholic social justice leaders across the state say they have been inspired by his depiction of the church as a field hospital that serves the wounded and marginalized of the world. Spiritual seekers say his emphasis on spirituality and discernment — developing a relationship with God and letting that guide one’s way forward — has supported them as they travel their own inner paths.

It may be tempting in a progressive state to claim the pope as a liberal, but experts advise against it. In fact, he has disappointed those who hoped he would do more to support women’s ordination, LGBTQ Catholics and survivors of sexual abuse by priests.

“The reality is, if you listen closely enough, Pope Francis challenges both liberals and conservatives,” said John Gehring, Catholic program director for Faith in Public Life, an advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C., and author of “The Francis Effect: A Radical Pope’s Challenge to the American Catholic Church.”

> ‘People are tired of being judged by the church, and Francis gets that. He doesn’t ask people 10 questions before ... [saying they’re] worthy.’
>
> — MICHAEL SEAN WINTERS, a columnist for the National Catholic Reporter

“He really hasn’t changed anything as far as doctrine,” Doud said. “There are people who wish he would, regarding women priests, married priests, celibacy and all that. And then there are people who think he’s gone too much in the direction of leniency and mercy.”

In California, his leadership has been felt in his selection of bishops and cardinals across the state. He promoted to cardinal San Diego Bishop Robert McElroy, author of a recent essay on radical inclusion in the church, passing over the more conservative “culture warriors” Gomez and Cordileone.

“People are tired of being judged by the church, and Francis gets that,” said Michael Sean Winters, a columnist at the National Catholic Reporter. “He doesn’t ask people 10 questions before allowing them to come in and [saying they’re] worthy.”

Francis was also responsible for elevating the beloved and recently killed Auxiliary Bishop David G. O’Connell, who served parishes in South L.A. and was committed to supporting the most vulnerable people around him.

Like Francis, O’Connell’s actions came not out of a progressive ideology, but out of faith, Deck said.

“Faith, unlike ideology, is radically open because we’re trying to understand God, and God is beyond all ability

[See **Pope,** A17]

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> ‘If he was to say that women are equal to men ... there would be a huge backlash — but also the change would begin.’
>
> — Bishop Jane Via, who finds Francis a refreshing change despite her excommunication for being ordained through Roman Catholic Womenpriests

[**Pope,** from A16]

for us to understand,” he said.

Joseph Tomás McKellar, director of Pico California, a large faith-based community organizing network, said Francis had helped deepen his own sense of faith as a Catholic.

“What the pope is calling us to is a reexamination of what it means to be a church,” said the 41-year-old Highland Park resident. “For a lot of church history, the church is understood as the institution, the building, the sanctuary. But the pope is trying to turn that on its head. He says the church is the people, the body of Christ.”

McKellar had a one-on-one conversation with Francis in 2019, after being invited by Cardinal Michael Czerny to the Vatican to participate in a meeting of leaders from around the world who were working on human-trafficking issues that affect migrants and refugees.

His heart racing, McKellar greeted the pontiff in Spanish and presented him a card with a picture of Mary and Jesus as a migrant mother and child, leaving a pueblo in Latin America and heading to Los Angeles. It’s a fresco at his church, Dolores Mission Church in East L.A. Then, he asked the pope for words of encouragement to share with those who work alongside the most excluded and marginalized in California.

The pope leaned in close to McKellar and tapped him on the chest. In Spanish, he said, “Stay close to the people. Stay close to the people. You have to listen deeply for what the people are yearning for and allow them to teach you. Stay close to the people.”

The pope leaned back and McKellar put his hand on his chest. “*Gracias, Padre,*” he said.

“I got super emotional,” he said. “I was overwhelmed.”

Bishop Jane Via, 75, of San Diego has a more complicated view of Francis. Via was ordained as a priest in 2006 through an organization called Roman Catholic Womenpriests, and became bishop through the same group in 2017. (She was excommunicated from the Catholic Church as a result.)

She and a former Orange County priest started Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community in San Diego, where she presides at Sunday Mass for roughly 70 people, in person and online.

Overall, Via sees Francis as a refreshing and welcome new face in the papacy — more open, more real and less engaged with orthodoxy than his predecessor, Benedict.

“He’s not a pope who is afraid to say he’s sorry for the wrongs of the Catholic Church, of which there have been many,” she said. “But one of them is the way women have been treated, and he hasn’t apologized for that yet.”

The pope established a commission in 2016 to study whether women should be ordained as deacons, but he has been clear that he believes they can never enter the priesthood. (Six in 10 American Catholics disagree with him and say the church should allow female priests, according to a 2015 Pew Research Center poll.)

Via says she finds the pope’s position disappointing but not surprising. She had hoped for more.

“If he was to say that women are equal to men and can hold any office in the church that a man could hold, there would be a huge backlash — but also the change would begin,” she said.

Melanie Sakoda, a survivor support coordinator in the Bay Area for SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, is also disappointed with Francis’ leadership.

“He talks a better game than a lot of the other popes,” said Sakoda, who is not Catholic but works primarily with Catholics who have been abused. “But I don’t see any fundamental change in the way clergy sexual abuse is treated by the Catholic Church at this time.”

She noted that in 2019, the pope established *Vos Estis Lux Mundi,* a church law to hold bishops accountable for the handling of sexual abuse cases, but said it wasn’t clear how effective it had been.

Abuse survivors were upset with Francis’ defense of Bishop Juan Barros of Chile, who was accused of covering up abuse by Father Fernando Karadima, his mentor. The pontiff later apologized to the survivors, acknowledging that he had “made grave errors in assessment and perception of the situation.” But for Sakoda and others, his initial reaction — which included accusing the survivors of “calumny,” or slander — revealed what they believe is his true allegiance — protecting the church’s hierarchy.

“After the attacks on the Chilean victims, it was sort of like, ‘Oh, there’s nothing new to see here,’ ” she said.

Still, most Catholics in California look upon the leader of their church with affection.

Sister Margarita Rico, a member of the Order of the Servants of Mary in Los Angeles, said the pope seems “very coherent with his life.” When he lived in Argentina, he didn’t have a car, and rode the bus instead; and he travels to places rife with conflict like the Democratic Republic of Congo.

“He is always preaching peace, unity and an end to violence,” she said. “He wants to keep the human dignity of each individual, because we are all the sons and daughters of God.”

Lori Stanley, executive director of the Loyola Institute for Spirituality in Orange, said that along with Pope John Paul II, Pope Francis has been a guiding figure to her as she continues to deepen her relationship with God.

As the first Jesuit pope, Francis is steeped in the same Ignatian spirituality that Stanley practices and teaches in parishes and on retreats around Southern California.

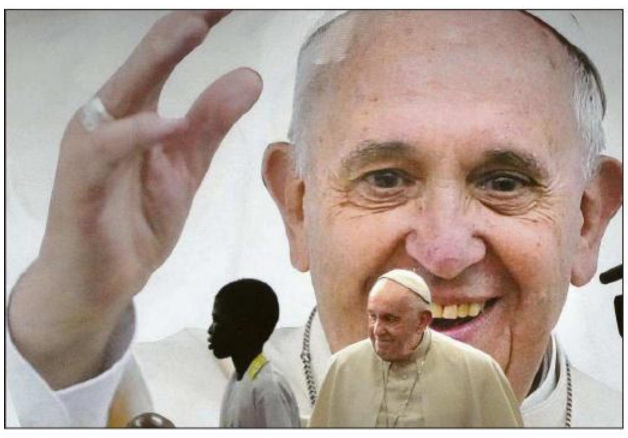
“Ignatian spirituality is inclusive, and it is always striving to find God in the picture,” she said. “I try to find God in all people and all situations, and I see Pope Francis doing that too.”

Manriquez would like to see the pope go further than he has.

“A lot of us — alpha females, alpha males, prophets, badass *chingones* — we want to see people to do more,” she said. “But I figure he is a creation of the time we are living in, and I trust God he is doing the best he can.”

Still, she wishes the pope would more proactively break down the church’s old hierarchical structures and open it up to those who have too often been excluded.

That he would, in other words, be less Rome, more California.



Gregorio Borgia Associated Press

THE PONTIFF in Juba, South Sudan, where he met with displaced people including this boy last month.

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CHUMASH CASINO RESORT

Widespread flood damage in Central California

[**Flooding,** from A1]

of Forestry and Fire Protection's swift-water team, officials said. National Guard personnel were dispatched to assist. At least 96 people were sent to county shelters.

Pajaro weathered previous storms because a flood wall in the lower part of the levee held up, according to Monterey County Supervisor Luis Alejo.

"We had avoided just barely, by the grace of God, the flooding of the community," he said of recent storms. Residents were ordered to evacuate Friday afternoon, but some didn't, he said, because they "were hoping that the worst would not happen because the levee did not breach during the last set of storms."

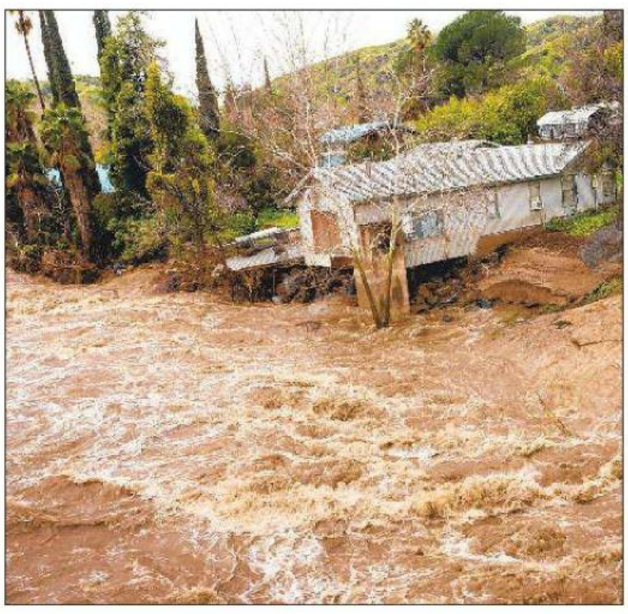
He added, "This is a disadvantaged community that often doesn't get the attention it deserves. These are our friends, our neighbors, these are people that we really care about, and we know that they're going to go through some tremendous hardship over the next several months."

President Biden, in a call Saturday to Gov. Gavin Newsom, said California will have the "full support of the federal government" when responding to devastation caused by the storms, according to a spokesperson for the governor.

On Saturday afternoon, onlookers stood on the Watsonville side of the Pajaro River Bridge watching the swollen, muddy river below and the submerged town of Pajaro on the other side.

Sheriff's deputies, county divers and boat rescue crews were parked along the bridge. Law enforcement officials stopped those with relatives or business on the other side, as well as the merely curious, from crossing. One man, who declined to give his name, said his grandmother was on the other side in a flooded home. Authorities wouldn't let him cross but took her address and promised to check.

Connie and Victor Alvarez said they were trying to get in to inspect their business, Alvarez Collision and Paint. They said they'd been notified by Monterey County that the business was likely flooded, and there was concern that toxic chemicals and solvents could be getting into the water.



Tomas Ovalle For The Times

THE TULARE RIVER breaches the foundation of a house in Springville. Dozens of rescues were made.

"So, we're here to check," Connie Alvarez said as she waited for a sheriff's deputy to see if she had permission to cross.

Three blocks upstream, three people were walking east along the river, carrying black plastic bags. Javier Gomez, a legislative analyst for Alejo, said they were likely among the residents who didn't heed the evacuation warnings.

"I don't know how many stayed," he said. "But we've been doing back-to-back rescues all day. Feels like there were at least 100."

At the Santa Cruz County fairgrounds, about 150 evacuees from Pajaro were talking, going through donated clothing and blankets and getting ready for what they guessed would be a stay of at least a few weeks.

Monterey County Sheriff's Deputy Mike Hampson said many of the same people had been evacuated in January, when the river rose.

"At that time, they were displaced for about a week," he said, noting that this time it's likely to be longer — as crews will have to clean flooded and contaminated streets and homes and reestablish electricity to the area.

As of Saturday night, there were approximately 18,000 customers without power, mostly in the Central Coast region, according to Pacific Gas & Electric.

Andres Garcia, 39, said this was his third evacuation from Pajaro because of river flooding; in addition to January, there was one in 1995, when the town was flooded "even worse" than it is now.

He and his wife and 8-year-old daughter left the city early Saturday, after they got a knock on the door from a sheriff's deputy who urged them to evacuate. Garcia said they left before the water got too high, and he had no idea about the condition of his house.

His neighbor Laura Garcia left after dawn. She showed a video of water sloshing through her house, lapping against a crib, dining room set and shelves.

Andres Garcia said many farmworkers will be out of a job for as long as fields remain submerged.

"They can't do anything while it's like this," he said.

Efforts to rectify the levee break are "going to be further hampered by incoming weather," said Cindy Kobold, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. A storm is expected to hit the area early this week.

"This next atmospheric river event is not looking like it's going to be as strong, but when you have a flood on top of a flood, it just makes a bigger flood," Kobold said. "That means this next one could be more impactful, because the ground is way overly saturated, and we're going to have additional rainfall, with gusty winds."

In neighboring Santa Cruz County on Friday, a woman was caught in a flood-prone area of Watsonville where waters had risen to 8 feet. By the time swift-water divers got to her, she was standing atop a pickup truck with water up to her thighs, said Gabe McKenna, spokesman for California State Parks. The rescuers from the agency swam with the woman 100 feet to shore, he said.

The agency has nine swift-water divers ready to deploy around Santa Clara County.

"I think we're supposed to be dying down in the rain a little bit with another one coming in a couple days," McKenna said. "So we're trying to anticipate these and be prepared and have the staffing available."

Meanwhile, Kobold urged residents to "turn around; don't drown," saying it can be difficult to gauge the depth of water on roadways.

"It might seem like it's only 6 inches deep, but if that road is washed away, and there's erosion below that, it's possible that it could be 6 to 12 inches or deeper, and you could get into a very dangerous situation," the meteorologist said.

Further north, in Butte County, a swift-water rescue team helped two people who were stranded on an island in the Feather River in Oroville. Releases from the Lake Oroville Dam had caused water to rise downstream and trap them.

On Saturday afternoon, the National Weather Service issued a brief tornado warning for areas near Tuolumne and Calaveras counties due to a severe thunderstorm. Another was later issued for Fresno County after reports of a funnel cloud, the first tornado activity in the area in 11 years, according to the National Weather Service. Sizable hail also fell in Fresno County on Saturday.

Flash flood warnings were in effect for parts of Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Monterey, Tulare, Sonoma, Fresno, Madera and Mariposa counties, according to the National Weather Service. At least two deaths have been confirmed as storm-related, officials said.

Major flooding was reported in Tulare County's Springville area — where officials conducted dozens of water rescues Friday morning — and in Kernville, where the Kern River surrounded houses and mobile homes, spurring evacuations.

Valeriana López, a 55-year-old resident of Tooleville in Tulare County, said the floodwater didn't come inside her home but turned her yard into soft mud. She set down boards to get across the yard and was searching for sandbags to create a walkway.

Sheriff's deputies went door to door Friday night urging residents to be ready to leave, López said. But she chose to stay.

"I'm going to trust in God, because we can't do anything," she said. "We don't have anywhere to go."

Farmworkers and other low-income residents in Tooleville have long struggled with inadequate infrastructure, including contaminated tap water and failing wells. They have been waiting for a planned project that will connect their water system to that of the nearby city of Exeter.

A few weeks ago, heavy rains damaged electrical wiring in the water system's pumps, leaving residents without water for a few hours, said Emma De La Rosa with the nonprofit Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability.

Highway 99, one of the state's main north-south thoroughfares, is closed for a four-mile stretch in Tulare County just north of the Kern County line due to flooding, according to the California Department of Transportation. A detour has been established. A portion of Highway 1 near Big Sur in Monterey County remains closed.

The chief concern Saturday afternoon was thunderstorms, said Gerald Meadows, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Hanford. The greatest risk, he said, was from the southern edge of Tulare County and northern edge of Kern County north through the San Joaquin Valley. Rainfall and gusts in excess of 45 mph are "just going to exacerbate any flooding issues that we're already seeing," he said.

While this week's storm won't be as heavy as the one that moved through Friday, Meadows said, "with a little bit higher snow levels or snowmelt range expected, we can see as much, if not more, flooding impacts.

"One of the big messages we want to get across — for the folks in the San Joaquin Valley especially, as well as the Sierra foothills — is though it's clearing up and it's not raining very hard right now, we're not through this just yet," he added. "The impacts are going to increase, and the thunderstorms can change the situation pretty rapidly."

In Southern California, rain was light Saturday but was expected to pick up again Monday evening, according to the National Weather Service.

Big Bear and Lake Arrowhead saw about an inch of precipitation Friday and Saturday, most of it rain as temperatures stayed above freezing, according to the weather service. The San Bernardino Mountains have been pummeled by back-to-back storms that produced have blanketed the region with record snowfall, trapping residents, closing roads and making it difficult for rescue workers to get food and other supplies to those in need of help.

Rust reported from Pajaro, and Mejia and Dillon reported from L.A. Ian James and Mackenzie Mays contributed to this report.

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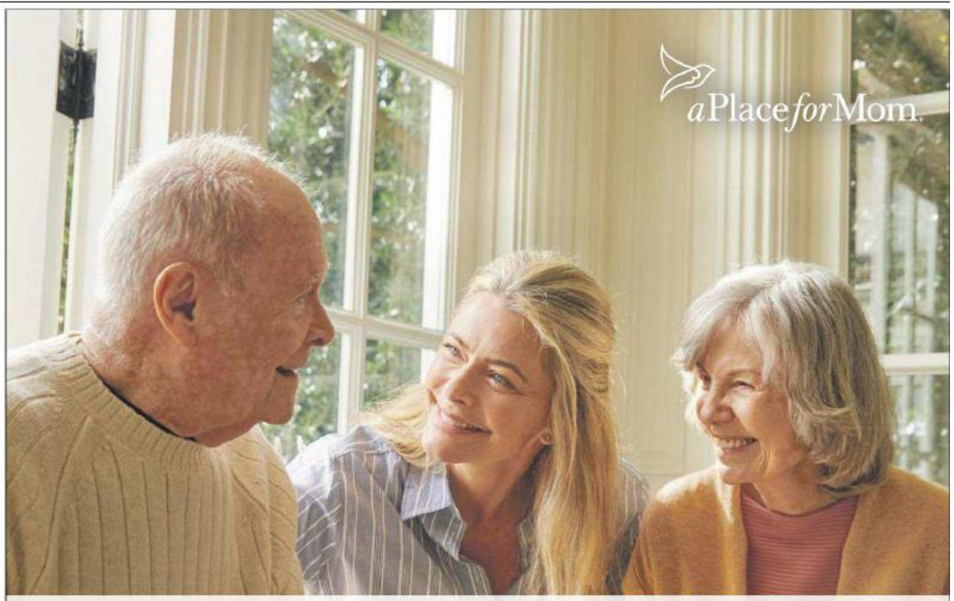

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Bank failed because Silicon Valley is broken

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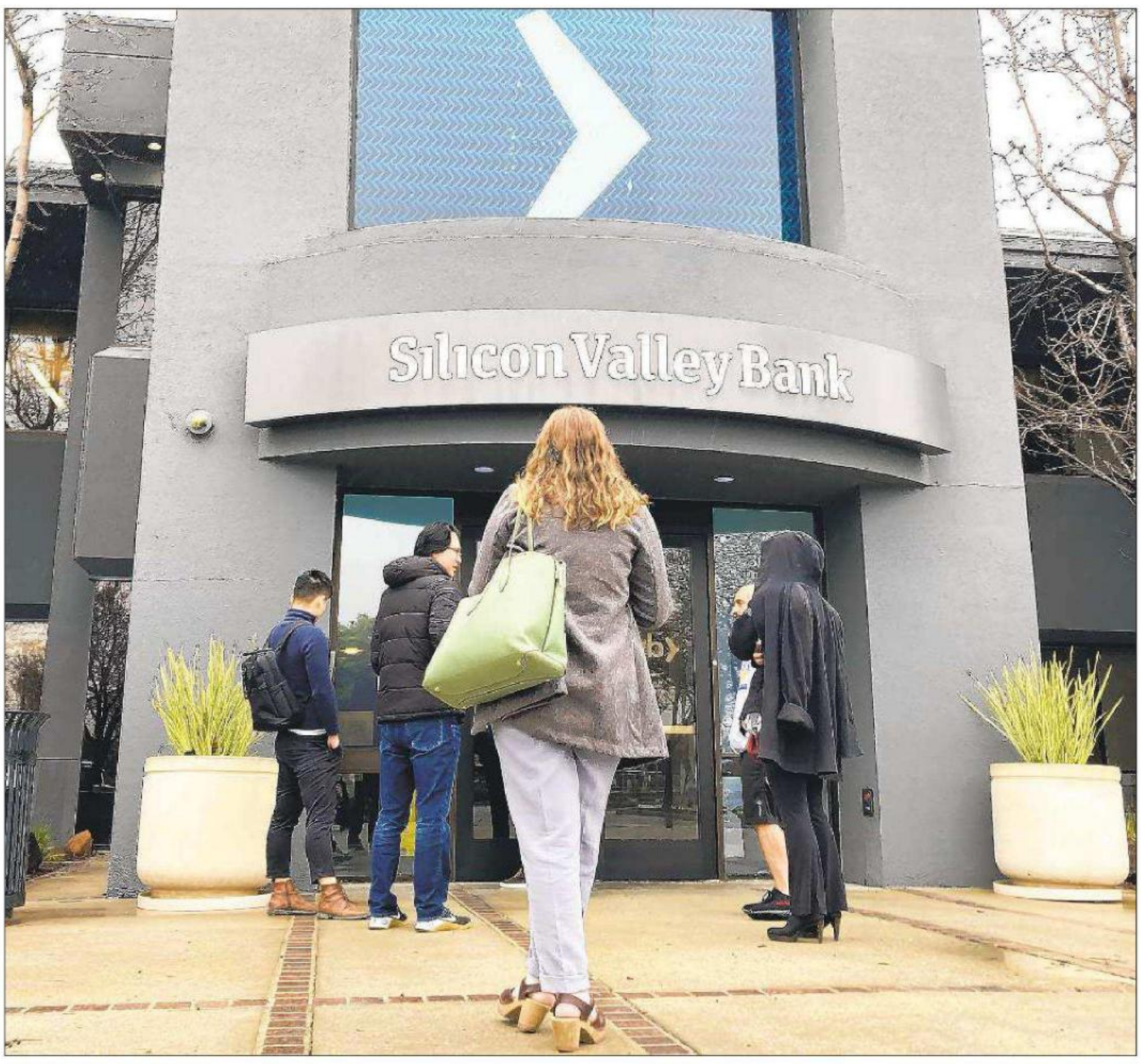

JEFF CHIU Associated Press

PEOPLE WAIT OUTSIDE Silicon Valley Bank in Santa Clara on Friday. The "startup bank" collapsed last week as Peter Thiel and other prominent venture capitalists rushed to withdraw a combined $42 billion.

There have been a lot of reckonings for Silicon Valley of late — the falls from grace of once-mighty founders, the collapse of the crypto industry and mass layoffs across the tech sector, to name a few. But it's the stunning failure of Silicon Valley Bank, the region's go-to regular old bank and one of the largest in the nation, that should finally force us to reconsider — and reform — how our tech industry operates.

There seem to be at least two big reasons that the "startup bank" failed.

First, the massive deposits on its books were bound up in low-interest securities, and they came from venture capital-backed companies that were burning through cash faster than expected, just as VC funding in general slowed.

Second, it and a great many of its startup clients were beholden to a relatively small cadre of venture capitalists, so SVB was uniquely exposed to a run on the bank should those venture capitalists decide to pull their funds at the same time.

This is what seems to have happened.

Rising interest rates undermined the bank's balance sheet, it didn't have enough on hand to guarantee withdrawals of funds, and an attempt at raising capital failed — so prominent venture capitalists such as Peter Thiel and his Founders Fund advised their companies to get out. Word spread, and soon everyone else was doing the same, to the tune of $42 billion in attempted withdrawals.

As many have pointed out, the bank should probably have seen trouble brewing as the Federal Reserve hiked interest rates and made its intention of continuing to do so clear. And the bank should have communicated its strategy to account holders after a crisis seemed imminent, et cetera. But even looking beyond the recent events, it should be obvious the "backbone" of Silicon Valley's startup ecosystem has long been broken.

If SVB was vulnerable to a rapid run-up in interest rates, it's because it catered to an industry in which showering unproven companies with cash is the norm, with venture capitalists competing among themselves to see who can make it rain the hardest. It's an inherently haphazard system, one that breeds recklessness right into its foundation. It's a little surprising, in fact, that it took this long for it to break down under the weight of all that hard-to-deploy capital.

The "build first, ask questions later" philosophy; the "move fast and break things" ethos; the mandate to grow your platform at all costs *then* try to figure out ways to manage it, long after the Nazis have moved in; the unicorn-or-bust mentality that says nothing is worthwhile if the market cannot scale to world domination; these are all byproducts of a system that starts with a venture capital-led model of developing technology.

Venture capitalists make their money by betting on lots of companies in the hope that one becomes the next billion-dollar success — with investments at that scale, nothing else is worth their while. So you have thousands of companies with young founders who suddenly have more money than royalty, tasked with turning that into more money than God.

More often than not, they park their new haul in SVB. As such, the vast majority of funds held by SVB are not guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., because each deposit is insured up to $250,000 — only 3% to 6% of the bank's deposits are that small, by some counts. The typical startup has millions tied up there.

And it's unclear if they'll see it again. SVB's assets are being shopped around, and while some are optimistic it will find a buyer and that its depositors will be made whole, that's far from certain. If it comes up short, it will be a remarkable indictment of what Silicon Valley's financiers truly value.

Remember, all it took was Elon Musk to snap his fingers and call some venture capitalists and JPMorgan, and he had a deal to buy Twitter for the overinflated price of $44 billion.

SVB is the economic foundation for the region's countless startups and tech companies. According to the New York Times, as of 2015, "it serves 65 percent of all existing start-ups and many of the most prominent venture capital firms." If it can't find a buyer, whether in a larger bank or regional investors, or a conglomeration thereof, it will be rather telling about where the priorities lie.

Because if SVB goes belly-up, it's the aspiring founders and rank-and-file tech workers who will get hurt the most. Companies banked with SVB are missing payroll because of the crash. People who are not venture capitalists are not getting paid for their work, and people who have been working around the clock on a dream they believe in (even if they do also believe it may make them more money than God) are losing their companies.

As for the venture capitalists? Sorry, they'll have to make it quick — they're in Aspen, almost to the top of the ski lift.

Now, imagine a model where an investor that wanted to put money into a technology company actually assessed the risk of doing so, or where founders were made to prove their technologies were marketable before they received a Series A of $100 million. Imagine a world where a handful of dudes were *not* able to decide among themselves whether an idea was suddenly worth the gross domestic product of a small nation-state, or kill off an entire industry without a sustainable replacement — or panic one another into toppling a major financial institution. Utopian, I know!

It's high time to find ways to restrict these incredible and reckless flows of capital, or at least tax them proportionately, to bring the tech sector back to Earth.

Because the alternative is obvious — tech products developed and unleashed recklessly, with a perpetual risk of collapse that affects everyone whose address is not on Sand Hill Road.

Congress takes aim at toxic fumes in airplane cabins

Citing a Times probe, bill calls for sensors on passenger aircraft to detect toxins.

BY KIERA FELDMAN

CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS Los Angeles Times

NEW LEGISLATION would require airplanes to be equipped with sensors to detect air contamination from heated engine oil or other mechanical failures.

The airline industry would be forced to adopt new measures to protect passengers and crew members from toxic fumes on airplanes under a bill introduced in Congress this month.

The legislation aims to address a basic fact of flying: The air you breathe on planes comes directly from the jet engines. Under normal conditions the air is safe, but if there's a mechanical issue, heated jet engine oil and other aviation fluids can leak into the air supply, potentially releasing toxic gases into the plane.

Although homes and offices across the country are required to have carbon monoxide detectors, planes have no such requirement.

"We all are breathing contaminated air," said Rep. John Garamendi (D-Walnut Grove), the bill's sponsor in the House.

Like many Congress members, Garamendi is a frequent flier, and he has long worried about his own cumulative exposure to toxic gases, he said. Often, "there's a strong odor that you're breathing something you shouldn't," Garamendi said. "Anyone who's been on an airplane when they start the engine knows exactly what I'm talking about it."

The legislation would create new mandates for crew training and for reporting and investigating fume events. Planes would be required to be equipped with sensors to detect air contamination.

Lawmakers cited a Los Angeles Times investigation that found that dangerous vapors contaminate the air supply on planes with alarming frequency, sometimes sickening passengers and crew, and incapacitating pilots during flights. Over a two-year period, nearly 400 pilots, flight attendants and passengers reported receiving medical attention after these "fume events," and four dozen pilots were described as impaired to the point of being unable to perform their duties, The Times found.

"Our legislation takes action where the FAA and airline industry haven't — requiring air detector and monitoring equipment, incident reporting, and investigations of these events to ensure a safer travel experience for all Americans," Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), the bill's sponsor in the Senate, said in a statement.

The bill is also co-sponsored by Sens. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.).

Major unions across the industry representing pilots, flight attendants and mechanics are backing the legislation.

"It is unacceptable that airline passengers and crewmembers may be exposed to toxins while flying — toxins that may lead to respiratory and neurological conditions, including breathing difficulties, headaches, and fatigue," John Samuelsen, international president of the Transport Workers Union of America, said in a statement.

Scientists have long warned of potential dangers from breathing heated jet engine oil, which contains tricresyl phosphate, or TCP, a highly toxic chemical that can damage the nervous system. TCP can have immediate effects such as headaches and dizziness, as well as longer-term effects such as tremors and memory problems, experts say. Some pilots and flight attendants have experienced serious health problems, including brain damage, after fume events, The Times found.

The bill would require a major overhaul of current practices. No government agency tracks fume events or how often people become sick or impaired.

Without sensors to measure air quality, planes rely on a low-tech method: the smell test. Internal documents from airlines and aircraft manufacturers provide detailed instructions for identifying oil and hydraulic fluid contamination in the air supply by smells such as "dirty socks," "musty" and "acrid," The Times found.

The legislation would require airplanes to have sensors that would "alert the pilot and flight attendants to poor air quality that is dangerous to human health," and it would mandate that airlines and manufacturers develop procedures on how to respond to alarms.

The proposed Cabin Air Safety Act is not the first time lawmakers have tackled the issue. Congress has twice held hearings on airplane air quality — in 1994 and 2003. Similar pieces of legislation have repeatedly languished in committee.

Backers of the new bill hope that it can be included in the FAA Reauthorization Act — a potentially easier vehicle than passing a one-off piece of legislation.

It's unclear what opposition, if any, the bill may face. Aircraft manufacturers Boeing and Airbus did not respond to questions about their positions on the legislation.

"Mandated regulations and monitoring requirements are premature in the absence of scientific studies that validate a health concern, reliable and accurate sensor technologies, and detection standards," Marli Collier, a spokesperson for Airlines for America, the air carriers' lobbying arm, wrote in a statement.

Studies on airplane air quality have looked only at normal flights in which no fume events were reported. No major research has ever measured the chemicals in fume events as they occur.

In 2003, Congress ordered the FAA to measure the toxic chemical levels in such events, but the airlines refused to let flight attendants carry air samplers aboard, according to an FAA-funded research report.

The Federal Aviation Administration declined to comment on pending legislation. "Studies have shown cabin air is as good as or better than the air found in offices and homes," the agency previously told The Times.

"The cabin air inside Boeing airplanes is safe," a spokesperson for Boeing previously wrote in a statement to The Times. "Due to the high air exchange rate and HEPA recirculation filtration system, air quality on Boeing aircraft compares favorably to other indoor air environments like schools, office buildings, and homes, as numerous impartial, third-party studies have found."

But HEPA filters can screen particles only above a certain size. They are not effective against gases.

Boeing previously told The Times that scientific studies have not proved a link between fume events and health problems. The company previously said it has not equipped its planes with air sensors because suppliers have not "demonstrated the existence" of devices that could "reliably detect contaminated bleed air."

But the Times investigation found that Boeing managers had legal concerns that went beyond technological shortcomings. Senior Boeing engineers worried that data from sensors could prove damaging if used as evidence in lawsuits brought by sick passengers and crew members, according to internal emails and sworn depositions.

An internal Boeing memo described it as a "risk" to give air sensors to even one airline, according to a deposition of a Boeing executive.

"Flight attendant, pilot unions, and congressional supporters could use this effort as evidence that sensors are needed and ... to drive their agenda forward to have bleed air sensors required on all aircraft," said the 2015 memo, which Boeing turned over in litigation.

Garamendi, the bill's sponsor in the House, noted that air monitoring equipment is "readily available."

"For the airlines, ignorance is money. If the toxic exposure were known, then you'd be looking at long-term health effects that may lead to workers' compensation" claims, lawsuits and requirements that manufacturers change "the design of the airplanes," he said.

"So heads up, Boeing."

MONEY TALK

How to find the right financial planner

By Liz Weston

Dear Liz: I'm 72 and still employed with a salary of $80,000. My wife and I have a home with about $1.6 million in equity. We have almost $4 million in real estate investments, $200,000 in stocks, IRAs worth about $250,000 and about $175,000 in cash.

Although it may seem like we have a lot, I have no clue what to do. I worry about the need for long-term care in the future, or what would happen if I stopped working and lost that income.

I tried contacting quite a few fee-only financial planners, and they all told me they wouldn't work with me unless I had $500,000 to give them to invest. Any suggestions on where I can get some real advice without giving someone control of money that I don't have anyway?

Answer: You're describing the "assets under management" model, in which advisors charge a percentage of the assets they manage for clients and often require the clients to have a minimum level of investable assets such as stocks, bonds and cash. This model often isn't a great fit for people who are just starting out, who don't want asset management or who, like you, have most of their money in less liquid investments.

Fortunately, there are other ways fee-only planners get paid. Some, including those represented by the Garrett Planning Network, charge by the hour. Others, represented by the XY Planning Network and the Alliance of Comprehensive Planners, use the retainer model, in which clients pay monthly or quarterly fees. Interview a few planners from these organizations to find a fit.

Making the most of a gift for a sibling

Dear Liz: My brother and his wife are living modestly on Social Security and delivering for a food service. Occasionally, I send him some money when I can. I have some money put aside and am able to send him about $5,000 now instead of leaving it to him in my will. (He is six years older.) I am afraid that he and his wife may spend it on a trip or frivolity and will not put it aside for home health or nursing care when they need it. Your thoughts?

Answer: Please make the gift and hope that they do spend it on a trip or something else fun.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, someone turning 65 today has about a 70% chance of needing long-term care services. Women typically need care for 3.7 years on average, while men need 2.2 years.

Medicare, the government healthcare program for people 65 and older, typically doesn't pay for nursing home and other custodial care expenses. However, Medicaid — the government health insurance program for the poor — does. If your brother and his wife need custodial care, chances are good they will quickly run through their assets and wind up poor enough that Medicaid will pick up the bills.

The amount you can give them wouldn't make much of a dent in the bill if they need potentially expensive custodial care someday. Your $5,000 gift would pay for about a month of an in-home health aid, and a couple of weeks in a typical nursing home.

But $5,000 could go a long way in delivering a memorable experience while they have the health and energy to enjoy it.

Liz Weston, Certified Financial Planner, is a personal finance columnist for NerdWallet. Questions may be sent to her at 3940 Laurel Canyon, No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or by using the "Contact" form at asklizweston.com.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Three tax breaks that could benefit families, students

By Andy Rosen

A tax credit is among the most satisfying benefits you can turn up when preparing your return.

Unlike a deduction, which decreases the income on which you'll be taxed, a tax credit reduces your overall tax due. The result can mean hundreds of dollars knocked off your bill or added to your refund.

Before you file your return, here are some tax credits you may want to review.

Income

The earned income tax credit is one of the most common income tax breaks, designed to help middle- and lower-income families.

For the 2021 tax year, 4 out of 5 filers claimed this tax credit, with an average benefit upward of $2,000. The total value of those credits was about $64 billion, the IRS said.

Even better, if the credit amount is higher than your tax owed, the government will pay you the difference.

Eligibility for the EITC mostly depends on income, and you have to have worked to receive the credit. For the 2022 tax year, the income limits range from $16,480 to $59,187, depending on your filing status.

There are a few other requirements, including:

- ■ You can't have more than $10,300 in investment income.
- ■ Everyone on your tax return has to have a valid Social Security number.

Children

If you've used the child tax credit in the past, it's important to remember that this benefit has undergone significant changes.

During the pandemic, the government temporarily increased the credit amount, providing thousands of dollars' worth of relief to some families. But in 2022, the credit reverted to its previous levels. Taxpayers who saw a big refund last year may be disappointed this time around.

The benefit can reach $2,000 per qualifying child, and up to $1,500 of that is refundable. People with dependents who don't qualify for the full credit can be eligible for a credit up to $500.

Families with children younger than 17 are generally eligible for the child tax credit as long as their kids have valid Social Security numbers. However, the amount you can claim depends on your income.

The credit begins to phase out once your adjusted gross income exceeds $200,000, or $400,000 for those married filing jointly. At a certain income level, the benefit lapses entirely.

Education

The American opportunity credit and lifetime learning credit are education-focused tax breaks. Both have a similar setup, but they are tailored toward different types of costs.

The American opportunity credit is targeted toward students pursuing formal degree programs. The lifetime learning credit, on the other hand, can be used for other types of training and education.

The partially refundable American opportunity credit is also more generous: Taxpayers can claim up to $2,500 per eligible student, including for expenses beyond tuition, such as course materials. With the nonrefundable lifetime learning credit, you can claim $2,000 per tax return for tuition only, regardless of how many students would be eligible. You can't claim both credits for one student.

The eligibility criteria for these two education credits vary. For instance, the American opportunity credit can only be used for four years of post-secondary education, and eligible students have to be enrolled at least half time. The lifetime learning credit is broader, and can apply to graduate courses or vocational classes.

The credits have basic eligibility requirements in common. Both share an income limit of $90,000 for single filers and $180,000 for married people filing jointly.

Rosen writes for personal finance site NerdWallet. This article was distributed by the Associated Press.

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First Credit Bank	NA	NA	3.03	4.00	4.50	4.45	4.50	4.00	4.00	310-273-2500
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Tustin Community Bank	0.05	1.01	0.50	0.75	2.02	1.51	1.51	1.51	1.51	714-730-5662
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SAVINGS UPDATE

What's the best CD term to buy now?

By Sabrina Karl

With the Federal Reserve a year into its rate hiking path, with more increases still expected, CD shoppers can find themselves in a bit of a quandary. What's the best CD term to buy right now?

When rates are low or at least stable, you generally do best buying the longest term for which you're comfortable locking up the funds. That's because in times of low or stable rates, five-year CDs tend to pay the most.

But when rates are in a known rising or declining pattern, what banks and credit unions are willing to pay on different durations shifts. While a rising Fed rate, like we've been facing since last March, raises CD rates in general, the best-paying term does not always remain the longest term.

Take the current rate landscape. The FDIC national averages for February show that rates paid on 1-year and 2-year CDs are higher than 3-, 4-, and 5-year certificates, with 1-year CDs having the highest national average of any term.

This is also true among the top rates from the best nationwide certificates. According to Investopedia's daily CD rankings, the top rates on 1 year, 18 months, and 2 years, are all above 5%, while the 3-year and 5-year top rates are in the upper 4% range.

For those wanting to hold funds in CDs for the long term, 5-year certificates are still a good option since you'll be guaranteed a rate that's competitive today for five years to come. But if you're looking for a short- to mid-term play to capitalize on today's high rates, a 2-year CD might be best, as it offers among today's highest rates while presumably outliving the Fed's increases. Though rates may drop in 2024, you'd still be locked into one of today's best rates until 2025.

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OPINION

EDITORIALS

L.A.'s juvenile justice in chaos

The county's unconscionable floundering endangers the lives of the teenagers in its care.

At Los Angeles County's troubled juvenile halls and probation camps, it's sometimes hard to distinguish between imminent rescue and impending collapse. For example, the Probation Department is transferring 100 less-experienced officers from the field to supplement a juvenile hall staff so diminished by vacancy, injury, fear and contempt for management that barely 11% of officers come to work.

Also, 16 "credible messengers" — trained volunteers who as preteens or teenagers spent time under probation's jurisdiction, or who have other relevant experience — will report this week to the dangerous Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar and the newer, safer, but still struggling Campus Kilpatrick in Malibu to offer young offenders the benefit of their experience. They are being sent by the county's new Department of Youth Development, which was first envisioned as an agency that could take over all of probation's juvenile operations as early as 2025. At present, that transfer seems unlikely to happen.

Conditions at Sylmar (almost universally referred to by probation staff, youths and families as Barry J) are dire. Officers work nearly 24-hour shifts to cover for their missing colleagues, leaving them exhausted and short-tempered. Classes and activities are often canceled because teachers and contract service providers are too afraid to come in. Interior walls are covered with graffiti, windows are broken, living quarters are trashed. Juveniles who are accused of crimes and awaiting court hearings have little to do each day but play video games or — because security is lax despite razor wire, guards and X-ray machines — get high on illicit substances that somehow find their way inside. Earlier this month, at least two juveniles overdosed on fentanyl at Barry J and were administered Narcan.

The situation is only marginally better at Central Juvenile Hall near downtown, which like Barry J is meant to hold, protect and educate young people accused of crimes for a few weeks while they wait for their court dates. In fact, some youths linger at the juvenile halls for as long as two years.

Problems also plague the handful of probation camps — facilities like Campus Kilpatrick in less-gritty settings where juveniles are committed by courts for longer periods of rehabilitation and treatment. The Board of Supervisors directed Kilpatrick to be rebuilt from the ground up to accommodate a new format of care based on small group settings and consistent staff mentoring. County officials proudly called their program the L.A. Model. But it was never put in place as envisioned because it is incompatible with labor contracts that require work schedules designed to suit officers rather than the juveniles.

The crisis is exacerbated by an influx of young offenders from the Division of Juvenile Justice, part of the California prison system. The state is getting out of the juvenile justice business on July 1, returning the more challenging cases to the counties. The Board of Supervisors had time to prepare for the transition last year but spent it poorly, squabbling over which camp in whose district would have to house the transferred juveniles.

On Tuesday, the supervisors fired Chief Probation Officer Adolfo Gonzales and briefly entertained a series of directives intended to stem the chaos at the halls and camps, but they put off discussion for two weeks. One plan that might have been timely a year ago includes temporarily reopening a third juvenile hall — the currently vacant Los Padrinos in Downey — to relieve pressure on Barry J. Companion proposals include a variety of transfers and remodelings. But the situation was allowed to degrade to the point at which juveniles and staff are in danger and the facilities are falling apart.

The county's population of incarcerated youth has plummeted, and the greatly diminished caseload ought to have been an opportunity to improve rehabilitation programs for the most difficult juveniles. Instead, having fewer cases has somehow translated into negligent care, absent staff and organizational meltdown.

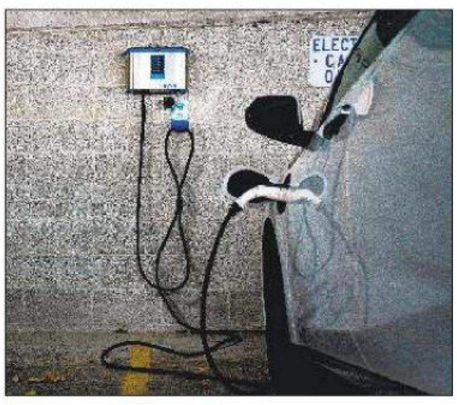
"We are lucky that no one has died," Probation Oversight Commissioner Mili Kakani said at a meeting Thursday. "If we're counting on luck, we don't have much left." At the same meeting, interim Chief Probation Officer Karen Fletcher told the commission — which earlier this month called for her resignation, along with Gonzales' — that the department was committed to employing the L.A. Model at every hall and camp. But this is the real L.A. Model: a foot-dragging Board of Supervisors, unmet standards, looming deadlines — and unconscionable treatment of youths entrusted to the county's care.

The Probation Department is now being scrutinized by the Board of State and Community Corrections, which has power to revoke permission to operate juvenile facilities and is subject to a 2021 settlement with the state Department of Justice, which found alarming failures with detention conditions and education. The intervention is needed.

But it's worth remembering that a settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice more than a decade ago over similar deficiencies resulted in short-lived improvements followed by a return to dysfunction. If state oversight fails to impose lasting improvement, there will be little choice but for the feds to return, this time with a civil rights action and a consent decree, and a lot less tolerance for objections by probation employees and county supervisors.

EVs can help prevent blackouts

Their batteries can be used to collect energy from solar arrays and send back to grid at sunset.



Kent Nishimura Los Angeles Times

AN ELECTRIC vehicle charging station in a parking garage in Indiana.

Between ferocious heat that pushed California's electrical grid to the brink and winter storms that knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of people, it has become increasingly clear we need backup sources of power to keep the lights on.

For California to achieve its climate goals and get 100% of its electricity from zero-carbon sources by 2045, the state also needs to add huge amounts of battery storage to capture renewable energy when it's plentiful and release it into the electrical grid when demand surges on hot summer evenings after the sun goes down.

There's an existing and growing fleet of battery storage that's virtually untapped so far: the roughly 1 million electric vehicles already on the road in California. When plugged in at homes, offices and charging stations, and with the right equipment, many could become mini power plants, available to quickly feed the electricity stored in their batteries to the grid when demand peaks and it's needed most to prevent blackouts, and also power homes when utilities shut off electricity to prevent wildfires. That could be incredibly helpful as California confronts extreme weather and increased power demand from the electrification of our economy.

Yet even as plug-in vehicles account for nearly 1 in 5 new car sales in California, efforts to use them to buoy the grid are still in their infancy. There have been a few demonstration programs, but vehicle-to-grid, as it is known, remains largely unused.

State policymakers haven't done enough to encourage vehicle-to-grid in tandem with the adoption of electric cars. That's unfortunate, because it just makes sense to give a second job to the electric vehicles that Californians are going to be buying in increasing numbers as the state begins to phase out new sales of gas-powered cars in the coming years.

All those electric car batteries add up to a lot of unrealized potential. State officials are anticipating a more than sixfold increase in electric vehicles by 2030, and if only 1 in 10 of those vehicles were plugged in and able to provide electricity to the grid, they would add up to 6,000 megawatts of backup power for several hours to help avoid blackouts, according to the California Energy Commission. That's the equivalent of having more than two additional Diablo Canyon nuclear power plants.

The obstacles are not so much technological as logistical and financial. Cars and charging stations need to be equipped with the ability to send electricity in both directions, and with communications systems to measure the flow of power. Currently it costs thousands of dollars to outfit a home for vehicle-to-grid.

State regulators have already adopted rules allowing vehicles to connect to the grid but should be doing more to make it a widespread reality. This is a promising source of clean, reliable power that California needs to prioritize by adopting rules and standards for cars and chargers and well-crafted incentives for vehicle owners. It could provide a pollution-free alternative to firing up fossil-fueled gas plants and generators to prevent blackouts during heat waves, which would be a win for public health and the planet.

California has an incentive program that could be retooled to outfit EV batteries as backup power stations. When the state slashed its rooftop solar subsidy program in December, it added new provisions to incentivize property owners to install stationary battery systems to store excess energy for use after the sun goes down.

"Why would we make a second investment in more batteries? Why wouldn't we focus on trying to utilize those batteries that these households already have?" state Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) said at a Feb. 28 committee hearing. "It is a rare household that uses their car more than a few hours a day ... so this capacity of that battery is just sitting there unused."

To that end, Skinner introduced a bill earlier this year that sets a goal to require all new zero-emission cars and charging equipment to include technology to enable vehicle-to-grid by 2027, an important first step.

There are other ways of taking advantage of vehicle batteries short of sending their power onto the grid. Time-of-use rates already push users to avoid charging during peak hours in the late afternoon and early evening. More electric vehicles are being built with the capability of sending electricity in both directions, which on the Ford F-150 Lightning can power a home for three days, though it's still limited to a handful of models.

But EVs can do much more. California needs policies now to enable the batteries of all the new electric cars that will soon be parked in driveways and garages to help make the transition to carbon-free electricity as smooth as possible.

LETTERS

Ohad Zwigenberg Associated Press

ISRAELIS PROTEST plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new government to overhaul the judicial system in Jerusalem on Feb. 13.

Double standard of Israel's critics

Re "Right now, to love Israel is to denounce it," March 8

Nadav Ziv is partly right about denouncing Israel. Unprovoked acts of violence by Israelis against innocent Palestinians should be condemned. But to denounce an entire state for the bad behavior of a small group of people is also wrong.

Contrast this with the Palestinian Authority paying the families of slain terrorists who kill innocent Israelis. Why are the media so strangely silent about such atrocities? The answer is clear: There is now, and always has been, a double standard when it comes to Israel and the Palestinians.

The American public has the right to expect the media to publish the news accurately and free from bias. Otherwise, its readers will be forced to rely on groups like the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement, which openly advocate the delegitimization and dismantling of the state of Israel, the only democracy in the entire Middle East.

Right now, Israelis are marching in the streets by the thousands to express their opposition to proposed legislation allowing its legislature to overrule the Israeli Supreme Court, as well they should. Yet, compare this to conditions in the West Bank and Gaza, both governed by an anti-democratic group of terrorist despots.

Again, why the double standard?

Bruce Friedman
Los Angeles

::

Thank you, Mr. Ziv. You speak for me and, I hope, for the majority of Jews around the world.

The actions of this Israeli government, which disrespects democratic values and Jewish values, are shameful and deserve being denounced. I applaud the thousands of Israelis who are in the streets protesting in the name of justice and human rights, and those organizations here and in Israel who are supporting them in wanting to take back their country.

This is the moment when our country can show itself as a true friend of Israel by speaking out strongly and in no uncertain terms against the intended gutting of the judiciary, and by refusing to support any longer a brutal occupation.

Judith Glass
Studio City

Too early for AI bots with rights

Re "Are chatbots on the path to personhood? It's risky to deny them rights," Opinion, March 5

The desire of Eric Schwitzgebel and Henry Shevlin to jump far ahead of what is the actual state of artificial intelligence is both wrongheaded and disturbing in its implications to society.

The implications to society are clear and have been discussed for decades, usually from the perspective of enslaved sentient nonhumans. At the moment, however, it is more important to note that it is almost certainly impossible for sentient life to come about from digitally programmed linear algorithms.

And despite the breakthrough of "fuzzy logic" and neural networks, all current artificial intelligences are linearly programmed code.

The distinguishing characteristic of any type of sentience is that it has emotional content as well as analytic ability. Emotional content does not come from analytical data input but from nonlinear, visceral reactions — emotions — such as fight or flight, terror, pain and hope.

To use a famous example from TV, the character Data from the "Star Trek" series needed a special "emotion chip" to allow him to feel emotions rather than trying to analyze his way to understanding them. That "chip" doesn't exist and cannot be just another type of computer passing data to the main computer. It will have to be capable of providing a different type of input to an AI "brain."

Michael Lampel
Granada Hills

::

Schwitzgebel and Shevlin miss the mark, arguing we need to figure out potential AI's personhood rights before it is too late.

There are already billions of sentient creatures on the planet, some nearly as sophisticated, amazing and deserving as us. And so far, human beings have never recognized a personhood right that belongs to them.

Indeed, human beings are allowed not just to hurt other animals with impunity, but people are allowed to steal their life, and many do so daily.

Secondly, when has science even been able to do something but wisely decided against it? (Nuclear bombs, anyone?) No government injunction would manage to stop the development of AI. If science can create conscious beings, it will, and that is that.

So now humanity must face this newest Frankenstein. I hope there will always be a means to pull the plug.

JJ Flowers
Dana Point

::

So there might be a future when AI chatbots, a human computer app invention, are granted personhood rights, while sentient animals continue to be slaughtered or subjected to horrible experiments with no regard for their fear and pain.

It's perhaps what enabled humans to conquer the planet — the ability to compartmentalize and reason away.

Smadar Marshall
Westlake Village

::

It's only a matter of time. The U.S. Supreme Court recognizes corporations as "persons," so why not AI bots?

Alexa will be able to vote, and Elon Musk's "self-driven" cars may one day form roving bands of political action committees. What a world.

Katrin Wiese
Rialto

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I looked into the 'lab leak' theory. It doesn't hold up

The deeper one probes, the more the science points to the SARS-CoV-2 virus jumping from animals to humans

By Michael Worobey

Recent reports that Department of Energy and FBI officials think the COVID-19 pandemic originated with a so-called lab leak appear to have provided all the "evidence" many require. As a scientist who has led or contributed to several peer-reviewed studies that tell a very different story, I've looked on with amazement at the growing divide between what the science shows and what much of the public — and a minority of the intelligence community — believe. But I've also watched with understanding for those who still suspect a lab leak because I started there myself.

The nucleus of all lab leak conjectures — they are not a single hypothesis but a wide range of sometimes mutually exclusive speculations — was famously captured by the comedian Jon Stewart. "Oh, my God, there's a novel respiratory coronavirus overtaking Wuhan, China — what do we do?" Stewart said during a June 2021 appearance on "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert." "Oh, you know who we could ask? The Wuhan Novel Respiratory Coronavirus Lab. The disease is the same name as the lab!"

Stewart didn't have the name right, but he was referring to the work of Chinese scientist Shi Zhengli, whose lab at the Wuhan Institute of Virology does indeed study SARS-related coronaviruses from horseshoe bats, the ultimate reservoir of both the original SARS virus and SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

The month before Stewart's tirade, Science published a letter by me and several other scientists arguing that lab leak hypotheses must not be prematurely dismissed. The letter dramatically shifted the debate about where COVID came from; two weeks later, the Biden administration announced a 90-day intelligence community review of the pandemic's origins.

While the intelligence community did its work, I set about my own. Though I considered a lab leak plausible, I nevertheless thought a zoonotic origin — a jump from animal to human — to be considerably more likely. Around the same time, the likelihood of a natural origin was bolstered by a paper from scientists in China and Britain proving that live specimens of mammal species previously found to harbor SARS viruses had been sold at markets in Wuhan just before the onset of the pandemic.

A scientist's job is to kick the tires of a hypothesis — to try to falsify it. I tabled all my other research to try to falsify the hypothesis that the pandemic began at one of those markets, the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, where many of the earliest known COVID patients worked.

First I investigated the possibility that Shi's lab had possessed a virus close enough to SARS-CoV-2 to be its progenitor. Shi had collected what was at the time the closest known relative of the pandemic virus, known as RaTG13, from a mine in Yunnan province.

I asked Nature to request that Shi publish several SARS-related coronavirus sequences that had been reported in the journal. Within days, she provided them. The result: no smoking gun; they were all much more distantly related to SARS-CoV-2 than RaTG13.

Next I set out to answer another key question: Were so many of the earliest known COVID cases linked to the Huanan market simply because that was where people were searching for them? It had been suggested that the market was the first place where cases were detected because China was focused on markets with live animal sales such as those where SARS appears to have emerged.

This turned out to be dead wrong. No such surveillance of live animal markets occurred in Wuhan before the pandemic. Astute doctors recognized the new viral pneumonia before an epidemiological link to the Huanan market emerged. Before that association was made, more than half the early cases diagnosed had a clear link to the market — a huge share for a workplace with about 1,500 employees in a sprawling city of 11 million. Also, both of the earliest two lineages of SARS-CoV-2, designated A and B, appeared to be geographically linked to the market, as I wrote in Science in November 2021.

But would mapping the residences of the earliest known patients cast doubt on the hypothesis that the market was the epicenter of the pandemic? I found a way to identify most of these locations by overlaying different low-resolution maps from a World Health Organization report. I then teamed up with Kristian Andersen of the Scripps Research Institute, who was leading an independent study of spatial patterns within the Huanan market, and we assembled a large, international team of experts.

武汉华南海鲜批发市场
WUHAN HUANAN HAIXIAN PIFA SHICHANG

Noel Celis AFP/Getty Images

GUARDS STAND in front of the closed Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan on Jan. 11, 2020, the day Chinese authorities said a 61-year-old man had died from a new respiratory illness.

We found that the earliest known COVID patients lived much closer to and more centered on the Huanan market than could be explained by chance. Crucially, this was true even of patients who reported that they hadn't worked at the market, shopped there or knowingly been in contact with anyone who did.

A more scattered distribution of early cases throughout the city would have suggested that the virus was already widespread in December 2019. But the pattern clearly showed that it was only then beginning to bleed into the community surrounding the market and didn't spread more widely across the city until later.

A scientist's job is to kick the tires of a hypothesis — to try to falsify it. I tabled all my other research in my effort to disprove the theory that the pandemic began at a Chinese meat market.

Our analyses linked the market not only with lineage B, which had already been found there, but also with lineage A, which had not. Just before we first reported these findings in February 2022, George Gao and his colleagues reported that lineage A was indeed present at the Huanan market before it was closed. This shows that the Huanan market wasn't simply the site of a "superspreader event," which would have amplified only a single lineage.

Within the market, meanwhile, the surfaces of stalls that sold live mammals or meat were more likely to have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 just after the site was closed. One stall riddled with positive samples from surfaces associated with animal sales, including a metal cage, had been visited years earlier by my co-author Eddie Holmes of the University of Sydney, who had photographed raccoon dogs there. The same species was among the market animals that tested positive for the SARS virus in 2003.

A highly technical companion study led by UC San Diego's Jonathan Pekar and Joel Wertheim, along with UCLA's Marc Suchard, Andersen and me, drew on over 700 of the earliest SARS-CoV-2 genome sequences. The evolutionary trees of these sequences, combined with epidemiological information, shows that the ancestors of lineages A and B almost certainly jumped into the human population separately. We also found that the establishment of these two lineages probably involved about five jumps into individual humans, most of which fizzled out before taking hold. "Molecular clock" analyses indicate that the lineages shared common ancestors that existed around mid-December 2019, corroborating the epidemiological and geographic evidence that the outbreak was largely restricted to the neighborhoods around the Huanan market at that point.

The two studies, which were published in Science following peer review last July, provide overwhelming, unrefuted scientific evidence that the virus that causes COVID emerged at least twice at the Huanan market, probably between mid-November and early December of 2019. And though it may strike some as odd that the virus jumped twice in the same market, research on mink farms and the pet trade shows that when SARS-CoV-2-infected animals are in close contact with humans over a prolonged period, multiple interspecies jumps are inevitable.

And as we showed using cellphone-based mobility data, the Huanan market is an exceedingly unlikely location for the world's first large cluster of COVID cases unless it was also where the virus emerged. There are hundreds if not thousands of other places where hypothetical lab leak cases could have initiated human-to-human transmission — bars, restaurants, schools, shopping malls — some with a hundred times the traffic of the Huanan market. Even one such event at Huanan is deeply improbable; fold in the strong evidence for two lineages emerging at the market, and the link to the wildlife trade is unavoidable.

Remarkably, some recent reporting suggests that the Energy Department's new "low confidence" lab leak conclusion may point to an entirely different lab near the Huanan market, the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention, which would directly contradict all the speculation surrounding the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

There is now a large body of peer-reviewed scientific research consistent with a zoonotic origin of this pandemic. However, there is no credible, peer-reviewed research pointing to a lab leak. Had the evidence gone in the other direction, I'd be reporting that. But it hasn't.

The "evidence" in favor of a lab leak consists fundamentally of discredited talking points. The lack of a positive sample from an animal sold at the Huanan market, for example, supposedly undercuts the market-origin hypothesis. But not a single relevant live animal was tested there before the market was closed.

Lab leak proponents cling to the contention that the presence of a lab that studies viruses and the emergence of a coronavirus pandemic in the same city can't possibly be coincidental. But my colleagues and I showed in 2021 that this virus wasn't going to emerge just anywhere in China: It took a city. Simulations indicate that when a virus with the properties of SARS-CoV-2 jumps into a human in a sparsely populated rural area, it will fail to cause an outbreak 99% of the time. But take that same virus into a huge city like Wuhan, and about a third of animal-to-human transmissions will result in an epidemic.

We should instead be asking: What is the chance that a big Chinese city like Wuhan would have a lab doing the kind of research that has come under suspicion? The answer is, the vast majority of the biggest cities in China have labs involved in such research. If COVID had emerged in, say, Beijing, there would be no fewer than four such labs facing suspicion.

I remain open to any and all evidence supporting a laboratory origin of the pandemic. So far, we have no such evidence.

Michael Worobey is a professor and the head of the department of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Arizona.

For Black women, the 'soft life' era is nothing new

By Rachel Cargle

In the last several years there has been a growing conversation among Black women about what it means to live outside of the struggle of survival. A widespread intention to reclaim and recommit to what social media has coined as a "soft life."

My relationship to softness, ease and pleasure has been complicated, which isn't unheard of for a Black woman in America. Words like "ease" don't always relate to the reality of how Black women get to exist in this country.

The enslaved Black women of my ancestry, who worked the plantation fields of the American South, weren't afforded the chance to be familiar with softness. The domestic workers in the homes of white families might not have had the space to explore the concept of pleasure.

Black women in corporate America today, who are expected not only to do their jobs, but also to act as in-house diversity and inclusion professionals, rarely expect to live in ease. And tenderness didn't seem accessible to the raised fists and passionate demands for justice from the Black women marching in America's streets against racism and police brutality.

The narrow and sometimes capitalistic interpretation of the "soft life" era on social media doesn't account for the significance behind this revived idea. I say revived because this conversation is not new. This intention to cultivate spaces of softness, rest and healing — for Black women in particular — is not simply a millennial hashtag or fodder for online content.

The trend's narrow interpretation on social media emphasizes a peaceful existence that leans into leisure and ease. But this means something different for us.

In her 1851 speech "Ain't I a Woman," activist Sojourner Truth questions her own access to care and softness, saying: "That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman?"

In the 1970 anthology "The Black Woman," filmmaker, activist and author Toni Cade Bambara is quoted as saying: "Revolution begins in the self and with the self." A concept that insists that caring for yourself is perhaps one of the most significant ways you can contribute to collective well-being. In her book "Sisters of the Yam," the late feminist author bell hooks describes her own attempt to gather women to address what she called a "deep, often unnamed psychic wounding that takes place in the lives of Black folks in this society."

This conversation spans generations of thought leaders who either hint at or loudly insist that we claim gentler ways for Black women to move through the world.

Online, the soft life concept of today operates on a spectrum. On one end, it's portrayed as a life that leans into luxury, glorifying things like expensive body oils, lavish vacations and high-end bags. I don't necessarily relate to this side of the spectrum. While adding a bit of lavishness into one's lifestyle isn't all that constitutes a soft life, it doesn't hurt to reimagine our relationship to money and what we understand as "for us" in this world.

On the other end of the online spectrum is an approach to a delicate work-life balance and saying "no" to things that don't bring us joy or fulfillment. And it is this side that I relate to most. More than the material opportunities to find ease, the soft life era relates to our efforts to set healthy boundaries, our ability to be introspective, our openness to ask for help and the prioritizing of our physical and mental well-being.

I'm hopeful that the soft life era will open up pathways for Black women to explore the practices and spaces that invite relief and remind us that we were not born to just survive. The concept is an invitation to envision what living well looks like for our community, moving away from our generational inclination to focus on self-sacrifice and instead really consider what a softer standard could look like.

In embracing a softer life, I'm making decisions based on what's best for me instead of through the virtue of martyrdom. It means finding what I see as the tiny joys in living. Things like valuing the rhythm of folding my towels, taking a moment to be mesmerized by the sunrise, slowly enjoying the process of making a cup of coffee rather than rushing toward a busy day.

My soft life commitment includes educating myself on financial literacy and intentionally building toward wealth to avoid living paycheck to paycheck, as so many of my ancestors have had to do.

It also includes having a renewed relationship with food, land and nature through things such as growing my own tomatoes, hiking with friends and bird watching in the springtime as an act of joy.

A recent piece titled "Muholi V," by South African artist and visual activist Zanele Muholi, speaks directly to this reimagining of rest. The work is a moving, larger-than-life bronze sculpture of a Black figure sleeping peacefully.

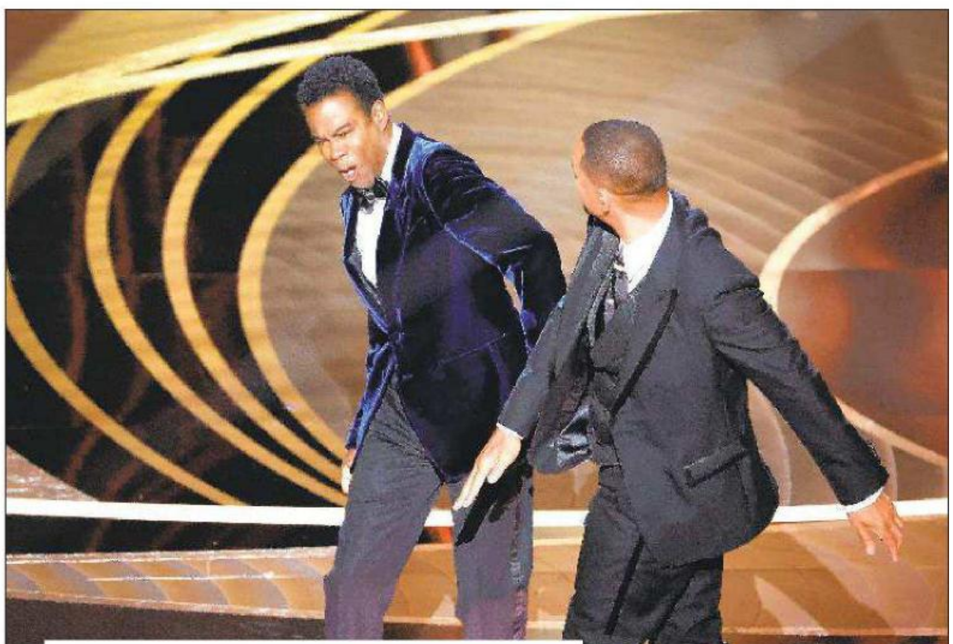
As the child of a domestic worker during South African apartheid, Muholi has created a work that's a stunning display of "art as resistance." A visual call for resting Black bodies to be seen and celebrated just as much as those that are constantly producing for the systems and institutions we exist in.

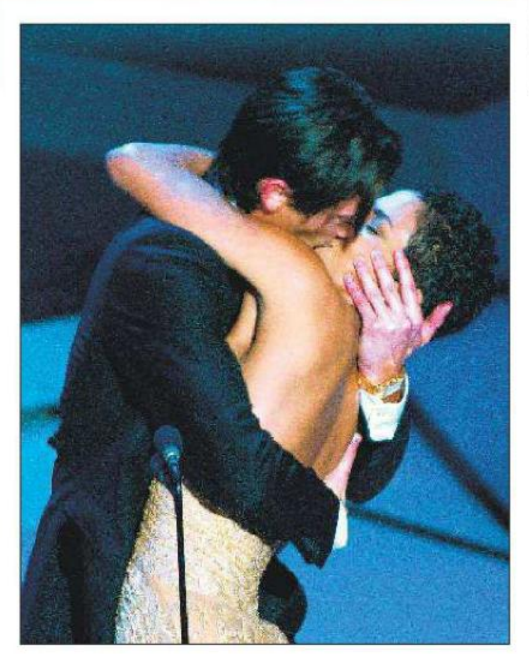
For those who brush off the conversation around a soft life, who call it overindulgent — you're right. Black women are moving toward a path of less resistance, a life not steeped in struggle. A soft life that ushers us gently toward our birthright to live well.

Rachel Cargle is an author, activist and founder and president of the Loveland Group and the Loveland Foundation. Her book "A Renaissance of Our Own" will be released in May. @rachel.cargle

It's Oscars time again. Wake me up when it's over

Hollywood awards shows are absurdly overblown and — that slap notwithstanding — boring





MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

KEVORK DJANSEZIAN Associated Press

ADRIEN BRODY surprises presenter Halle Berry after he won the Oscar for lead actor at the 75th Academy Awards. Top, Will Smith slaps Chris Rock onstage during the 94th Academy Awards.

Before the Slap, of course, there was the Kiss. Both were acts of aggression, though the unwoke 2003 Oscars audience did not seem to perceive the embrace as a moral breach.

ROBIN ABCARIAN

CALL IT OSCAR exhaustion. Emmy antipathy. Grammy burn out.

I've spent a good chunk of my professional life covering various awards shows, and now I can barely stand to watch them. There was just always so much stress involved: the struggle for credentials, the parking hassles, rushed red carpet interviews and brutal deadlines. Really, the best part about covering an awards show was telling friends and family about it afterward.

On Sunday, I won't get worked up about whether "Everything Everywhere All at Once" will beat "Tár" for best picture. (It will.) Or whether Jamie Lee Curtis will finally get the career respect she deserves in the shape of a golden statuette. (Could be Kerry Condon's year.)

My awards show mantra: Just wake me up when it's over.

Come Monday morning, I will look at slideshows of stick figures in gorgeous clothes and chuckle at the fashionistas who proclaim that *this* was the year of cleavage, the color yellow or the return to elegance. As if the themes that crop up on the red carpet are anything more than simple coincidence and product placement for thirsty designers who often pay a hefty price to be "worn."

I will scan the list of winners, rooting only for one film, the documentary "Navalny," because an Oscar for best documentary might serve as a kind of life insurance for the anti-Putin dissident, who sits in prison as the Russian strongman tries to destroy him and the democratic movement he built. (The film is a riveting account of how Alexei Navalny, his colleagues and the incredible internet sleuths of Bellingcat identify, then confront the men who poisoned him with a nerve agent in 2020.)

It's not often that the Oscar stakes are as dramatic as life and death, although winning awards can certainly make or break a career, and the whole spectacle is a sub-industry unto itself. The show generates millions of dollars for city coffers, and in ad revenue for ABC. Studios spend millions on lobbying in the run-up to Sunday. I respect that. I just don't really care anymore.

In 1985, I covered my first Academy Awards as a reporter for the Los Angeles Daily News. I pushed my way onto the rope line outside the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on a tiny patch of real estate allegedly reserved for me, jostled by sharp-elbowed photographers, hoping to get something more meaningful than a designer endorsement out of the celebrities sweeping by. (Although, to be honest, "Who are you wearing?" was a handy enough question if you couldn't think of anything else to ask.)

I've been outside the Oscar auditorium and inside the Oscar auditorium, outside the Governors Ball and inside, outside the Vanity Fair party and inside, where reporters were forbidden to carry notebooks and were forced to run to the bathroom to write down things they didn't want to forget.

At the party in 2006, I sat next to Russell Simmons, who was smoking a joint and abruptly turned away when I identified myself. I bumped into Jacqueline Bisset in the loo. Near a bar, I stood next to Michelle Williams, who was grossed out by lollipop party favors featuring the face of then-underage Dakota Fanning. "That's almost pornographic!" Williams exclaimed at the thought of people sucking on little Dakota's face.

I was at the first post-#MeToo Oscars in 2018, when Hollywood was still in shock and just starting to come to grips with its reflexive protection of powerful men who behave very, very badly. The town was still in a state of moral confusion.

After all, that year it awarded an Oscar to Kobe Bryant for his short, "Dear Basketball," despite his having been charged with raping a woman in Colorado in 2003. (The charges were dropped when the victim, whose life had been threatened and who had attempted suicide, stopped cooperating with prosecutors. Bryant publicly apologized to her.)

But just a year before that, the writer/director/actor Nate Parker was snubbed for his remake of "The Birth of a Nation." Parker's film was a Sundance Film Festival sensation, and at a time when the #OscarsSoWhite hashtag had gone viral, the success of the film and its auteur were viewed as an important corrective. "Birth" was supposed to be a major Oscar contender. In interviews for the film, Parker acknowledged that he had been charged with rape in 1999 while a student at Penn State; he was acquitted. But Parker was deemed unsuitably defensive after news surfaced that the alleged victim had died by suicide in 2012. Hollywood shunned him; the film sank with hardly a trace.

In my view, Bryant's Oscar triumph taken together with Parker's bizarre cancellation is a shining example of Hollywood hypocrisy.

This unfortunate quality was also on display in the aftermath of last year's infamous slap, when Will Smith took offense at Chris Rock's joke about his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, and strode onstage mid-ceremony to assault the host. I was stunned by the number of people who made excuses for Smith's reprehensible behavior.

Dramatic, unscripted moments like that can turn a dull event into a spectacle. Before the Slap, of course, there was the Kiss.

Both were acts of aggression, though the unwoke 2003 Oscars audience did not seem to perceive the full-body embrace that Adrien Brody forced upon Halle Berry as a moral breach.

"Bet you didn't know that was part of the gift bag," Brody joked, as if Berry were the equivalent of a gift certificate to Spago. Berry, for her part, looked stunned.

In the newsroom that night, I remember enthralled page designers and editors deciding to blow the photo up for the cover of the Calendar section. It was definitely the evening's most dramatic image.

Berry later said it had been a shock. She went with it, she told an interviewer, but her main reaction was "what … is happening?"

Later, I came to feel that we had valorized a form of assault.

On Sunday evening, I will be at home, in front of a fire, probably watching a movie. Good luck to all the nominees, but especially to the reporters, editors and photographers facing their impossible deadlines. I wouldn't trade places with you for anything.

@AbcarianLAT

The overlooked argument in favor of reparations

Nationwide, discussions often focus on the racial wealth gap. What about the racial health gap?

By Christopher Kuzawa

JANIE HAR Associated Press

PEOPLE LINE up to speak during a meeting of California's Reparations Task Force at Third Baptist Church in San Francisco last year. The task force is set to release recommendations by July 1.

CALIFORNIANS are weighing in publicly on the idea of reparations to Black Americans, with the state's Reparations Task Force set to report its recommendations by July 1. This initiative builds on smaller-scale efforts, such as in my hometown of Evanston, Ill., which in 2021 became the first U.S. city to promise limited financial reparations for slavery and city-sanctioned discriminatory housing policies.

Nationwide, much of the reparations conversation has focused on the financial burdens set in place by slavery and subsequent racist government policies. As a direct result of these factors, the median wealth of white households is about eight times that of Black households in the U.S. today.

This racial wealth gap on its own makes a strong case for reparations. But it should be joined by an equally egregious and often less acknowledged health gap: In the U.S., Black lives are years shorter on average than white lives. And as with the wealth gap, racism is a key culprit.

I am an anthropologist and epidemiologist who studies health inequity, and last year I began my testimony to the California Reparations Task Force by recounting stark figures compiled by the National Center for Health Statistics: Life expectancy for Black women in the U.S is three years fewer than for their white counterparts. For men, the difference is a striking five years lower.

This racial health gap largely traces to stress-related diseases such as heart attacks and strokes, and it is not related to genetic differences. In fact, racial groups do not map neatly onto our genes. Instead they are fluid categories that societies establish in response to cultural norms, defined and perpetuated by those in power to maintain social control.

One example from the U.S. is the arbitrary Jim Crow-era "one-drop rule," aimed at preserving white racial purity in some formerly slaveholding states. It specified that Americans could be considered white only if they showed no signs of past intermarriage with people of non-European ancestry. This meant that an American could have majority European ancestry and still be considered Black, and the same is true today.

Studies of human genetic diversity teach us that humans evolved in Africa and then migrated relatively recently to other continents. As a result, all human populations outside of Africa, including Europeans and Asians, are effectively just slightly modified subsets of the human species' original African genetic diversity. Although we may vary in superficial ways such as skin color or hair type, all people share the vast majority of the same pool of genes.

Genetics don't explain the huge racial health gap in America. However, the experience of being Black in America does. Specifically, decades of public health research show that racism is a crucial factor. Racism makes day-to-day interactions more stressful and influences many other factors that affect disease, including healthcare quality and access, educational opportunities, and neighborhood traits such as air quality, industrial pollutant exposure and access to healthy food.

Or consider the prevalence of cardiovascular diseases among Black Americans, which contributes to the Black-white mortality gap more than any other cause of death. A 2015 review in the American Journal of Epidemiology looking at relevant studies found that evidence of genes driving these disparities is "essentially nil." Instead, research links this gap to social inequities.

For instance, a 2020 analysis of the Jackson Heart Study, which has followed thousands of people's health for 25 years, found that lifetime discrimination substantially increased the odds of heart disease among Black participants. A separate 2021 study found that Black participants had higher levels of the stress hormone cortisol — which has effects on conditions including blood pressure and heart disease — on days when they reported experiencing racial discrimination.

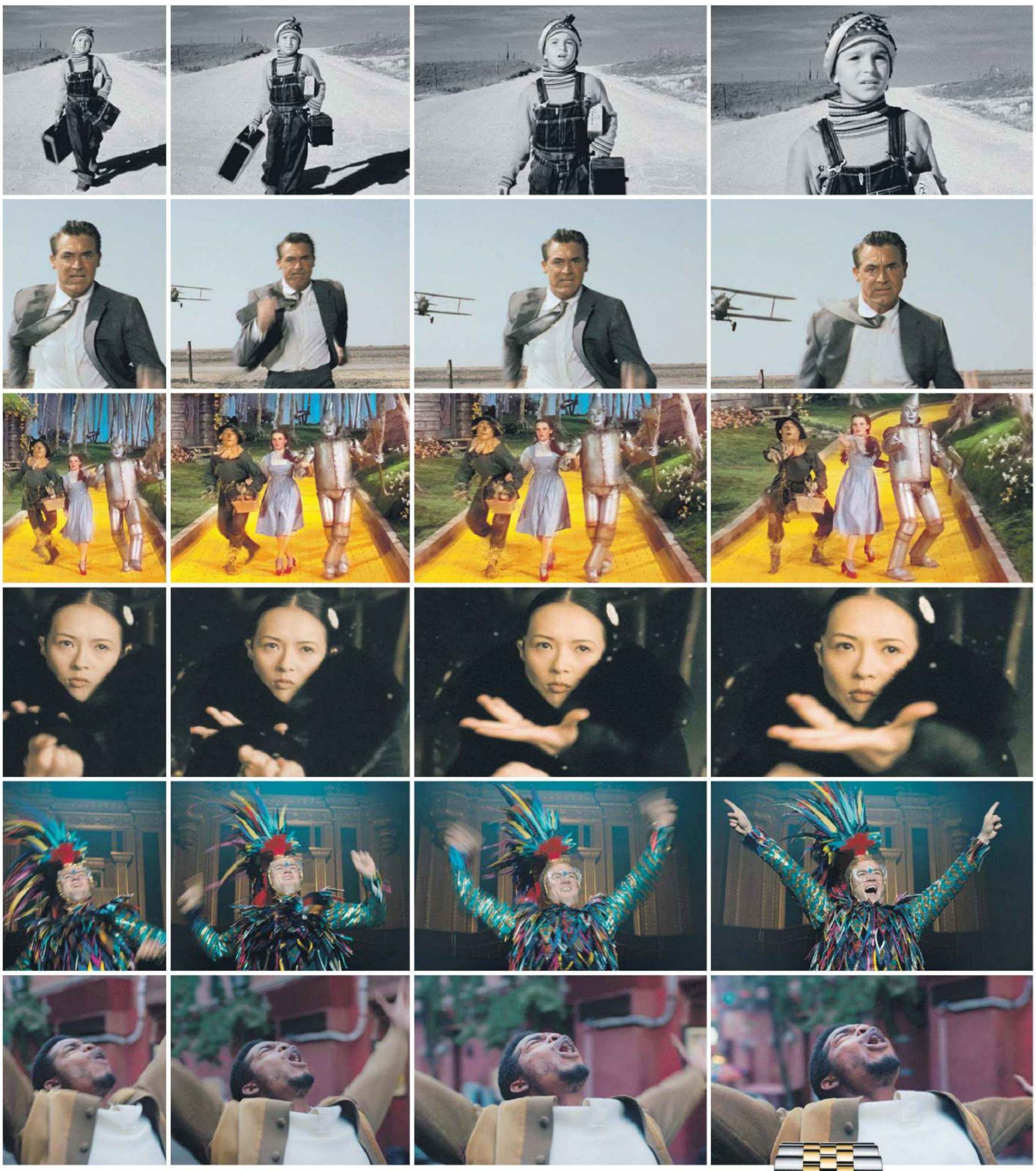
The health gap looms the minute Black babies are born in the U.S. Black Americans are more prone to low birth weight, which can lead to childhood health problems and to higher rates of hypertension, stroke and heart disease later in life. A landmark 1997 study in the New England Journal of Medicine showed that African immigrants in Illinois had babies with birth weights close to those of white mothers — but subsequent research found that after a generation or two spent living in the U.S., this community began to experience lower birth weights resembling those of African Americans whose families have lived here for many generations.

Lower birth weights for these mothers had nothing to do with genetics, and everything to do with the cumulative stress of being Black in America.

Although my testimony to the California Reparations Task Force began with bleak statistics, it ended on a hopeful note: Because the racial health gap is not genetic, we can reverse it. Health improves when we reduce stressors — and when families have access to adequate resources. In a Chicago-area study, upward economic mobility reduced Black mothers' odds of giving birth to a small-for-gestational age baby. Initial studies of pilot programs to guarantee a minimum income point to improvements in mental health outcomes, including depression, for the affected communities.

Economists can tally the wealth gap between Black and white families created by centuries of racist policies in the U.S. The stark health inequities caused by systemic racism are harder to put a dollar value on, but they are another historic injustice that merits reparations. Material resources offered by reparations programs will help close the health gap too. And the years lost from Black lives matter.

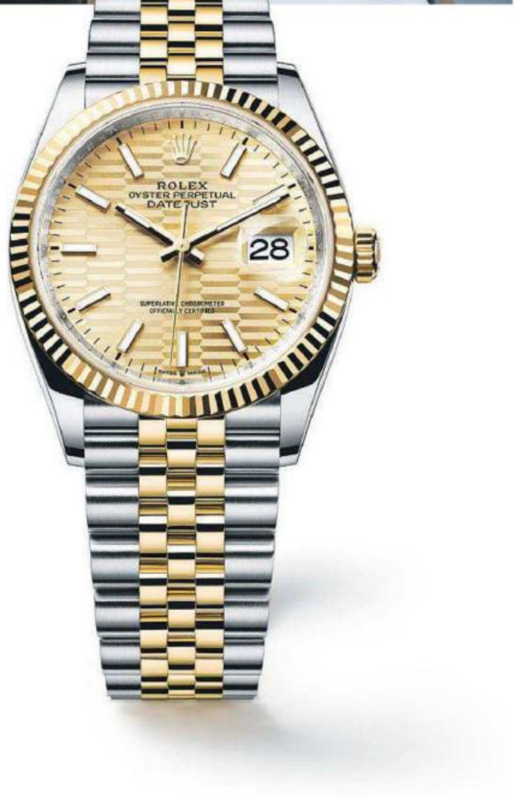
CHRISTOPHER KUZAWA is a professor of anthropology and fellow of the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University and an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



A MOMENT OF ETERNITY

It's more than just 24 frames flickering every second. More than an epic retelling of our collective past or an exploration of our possible futures. Each new masterpiece questions our deepest nature and fuels our highest aspirations. It's a testament to what truly moves us, an invitation to always aim higher, and a legacy perpetually reinvented. **It's cinema.**

#Perpetual



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ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

A MAN WALKS his dog on a rainy day in Newport Beach. The amount of San Joaquin River water that's scheduled to be rerouted under a state plan is more than the annual supply for the city of Los Angeles.

Diverting the liquid assets

State will replenish drought-depleted groundwater with floodwaters

By Ian James

With torrential rains drenching California, state water regulators have endorsed a plan to divert floodwaters from the San Joaquin River to replenish groundwater that has been depleted by heavy agricultural pumping during three years of record drought.

The State Water Resources Control Board approved a request by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to take more than 600,000 acre-feet from the river and send much of that water flowing to areas where it can spread out, soak into the ground and percolate down to the aquifer beneath the San Joaquin Valley.

The amount of water that's set to be rerouted under the plan is more than the annual supply for the city of Los Angeles. Some of the water will also be routed to wildlife refuges along

[See **Assets,** B7]

BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER, left, and the Tuolumne River. Some of the diverted water from the San Joaquin will also go to wildlife refuges.

Inland cities grow as L.A., San Francisco lose population

Some, like Irvine, are close to job centers. Others, like Menifee, are more affordable.

By Terry Castleman

Brian Harrington was looking for a bigger house in 2021. He and his wife were expecting a baby and were able to work from home.

They settled on the Riverside County community of Menifee, about 54 miles from their Anaheim home.

Harrington, who works as a public relations consultant for Bitcoin startups, searched online for "homes in low 600s Southern California" and was directed to the fast-growing corridor of communities along Interstates 15 and 215.

The couple ended up buying a home in Menifee's Audie Murphy Ranch community. "Love the house, love the neighborhood," Harrington said, noting that the area "feels like Orange County."

As far as downsides go, shopping is limited to "only box stores and big chain restaurants," he said. "I haven't found my hole-in-the-wall dive bar that I love yet."

Big coastal cities in California, led by San Francisco and Los Angeles, have seen declines in population in recent years. Some residents have left for cheaper housing in other states. But during the same period, some California suburbs such as Menifee have seen significant population booms.

From 2019 through 2022, 1.02 million more people moved out of homes and businesses in California than into them, a Times analysis of U.S. Postal Service data shows.

The data show the five ZIP Codes with the most net move-ins were all suburbs or exurbs around Sacramento and Southern California, including cities such as Irvine, Menifee and Walnut.

These fast-growing spots are generally suburbs with new housing coming on line. Some, such as Irvine, are high-priced and close to job centers. Others, such as Menifee, are farther out from urban cores but offer bigger homes and more outdoor space for the money. As the practice of remote work rose during the pandemic, far-flung communities made more sense for some.

Although Harrington stayed in California, many others have left the state. The U.S. Postal Service's change-of-address data support the theory that California's shrinking population is largely the result of net migration out of the state, experts say.

No data set is perfect, and Paul Ong, director of the Center for Neighborhood Knowledge at UCLA, added a note of caution: "There is a bias to reporting out moves in many situations," he said, referring to change-of-address requests filed with the post office.

The USPS data include mostly permanent and some temporary moves for individuals, families and businesses.

[See **Moving,** B7]

Labor woes heat up at L.A. Unified

Teachers plan to join strike by other district workers; closures of schools are possible.

By Howard Blume

The Los Angeles teachers union plans to join an anticipated three-day strike — possibly within two weeks — with thousands of L.A. Unified's non-teaching workers, an action that would probably shut down schools amid an explosion of labor discontent.

The labor action would be led by Local 99 of Service Employees International Union, which represents 30,000 cafeteria workers, bus drivers, custodians, special education assistants and others. Local 99 would be joined by United Teachers Los Angeles, which represents about 35,000 teachers, counselors, therapists, nurses and librarians.

Local 99 has reached an impasse with the district in months-long negotiations for an across-the-board 30% raise and more for the lowest earners. It will announce the timing of its three-day walkout during a rally Wednesday with the teachers union. A settlement would avert a strike.

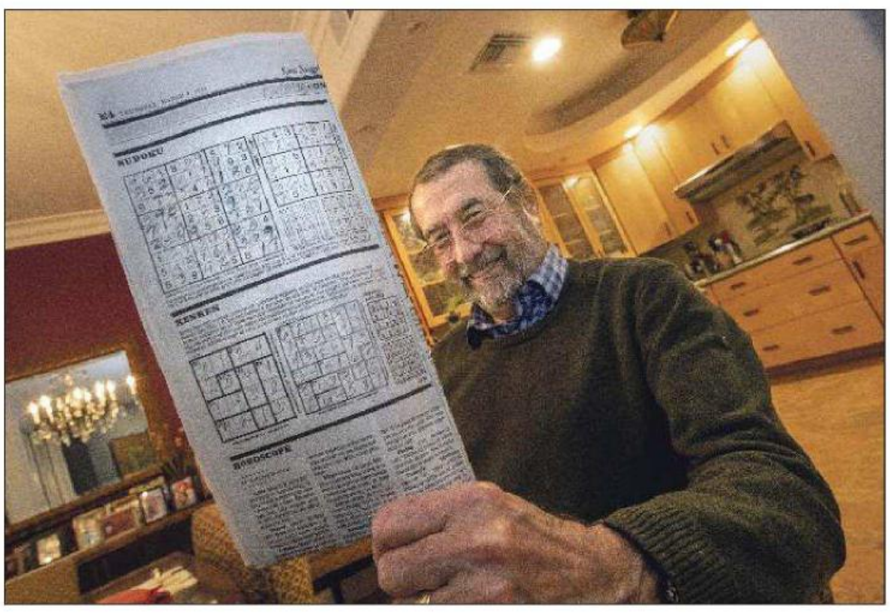
"Over three days we can show the district that we are fed up with their disrespect and not afraid to take strong action to demand respect for

[See **Strike,** B2]

A LIVING Wage
Smaller Class Size
More Counselors
We are Worth it !!!
NEED SMALLER CLASS SIZES
ESCUELAS PERSONAL COMPLETO

BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

MEMBERS of United Teachers of Los Angeles rally Dec. 5 outside L.A. Unified headquarters.



MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

JAIRO ANGULO of West L.A. does puzzles daily "to keep my brain functioning." But is there science behind that, or is it wishful thinking?

Do word games really sharpen your memory?

Eating right, exercise and sleep, not puzzles, are the best tools for brain health, experts say.

STEVE LOPEZ

It's a daily ritual for millions of people. You wake up, pour a cup of coffee, and eventually make your way to one or more crossword puzzles, word games and other brain twisters.

The test of banked knowledge and problem-solving ability can boost your ego, or deflate it. But either way, you're clearing out the cobwebs, right? It's the "use it or lose it" theory in action, and as I get older, I'd like to believe these mental exercises can help keep my mind sharp and maybe even ward off memory loss, even if my wife usually beats me at all these games.

But is there any science behind that, or is it wishful thinking?

I am trying to solve that riddle, because since launching the Golden State column two months ago, I've heard from a lot of readers who — like me —put at least a bit of faith in the value of mental gymnastics.

"In order to keep my brain functioning," 73-year-old Jairo Angulo of West L.A. wrote, "I play Wordle, complete the Jumble, do the Sudoku, KenKen and crossword puzzles daily."

Jose Galvan, 77, said he thinks his daily routine of a crossword puzzle, Wordle and "one or more Sudoku grids" keeps him "mentally agile."

I'm not out to crush the spirits of Angulo, Galvan or anyone else who labors daily at the kitchen table, pencil or

[See **Lopez,** B10]

GOLDEN STATE California is about to be hit by an aging population wave, and Steve Lopez is riding it. His new column will focus on the blessings and burdens of advancing age — and how some folks are challenging the stigma associated with older adults. Read his other columns online at **latimes.com**.

A warm welcome home for speaker

State Republicans toast Bakersfield's McCarthy, who says GOP is now stronger.

By Seema Mehta

SACRAMENTO — House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, making a homecoming appearance in front of California Republicans on Saturday, said that after his successful yet protracted fight for the gavel both he and the GOP emerged as a tougher and more formidable political force in Washington.

McCarthy had to grant numerous concessions to Congress' most conservative members to win the speakership, and even then it took 15 rounds of voting — the first time in a century that a speaker was not elected on the first ballot. He called the experience, a spectacle that played out on live national television, a test from God.

"He just thought we would be stronger if we went through it," McCarthy said to hundreds of delegates and guests at a California Republican Party luncheon, his first speech to the state party since winning the post.

McCarthy made no mention of former President Trump, with whom he has a complicated relationship. He was an early ardent supporter of the real estate baron turned reality-television star during the 2016 campaign, leading Trump to call

[See **Speaker,** B4]

Man arrested in 1997 bank robbery killing

Suspect is accused in the execution-style shooting of 39-year-old teller during a holdup in Thousand Oaks. **B3**

O.C. Zoo has its own Mickey

The 11-month-old, 50-pound jaguar cub greets visitors for the first since his arrival in California. **B4**

Lottery **B2**

Teachers to join strike by other district workers

BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

UNITED TEACHERS and Local 99, representing other school employees, have been negotiating with L.A. Unified over wage increases and other demands.

[**Strike,** from B1]

our work," Local 99 stated Saturday in an email to members. "This is a lawful strike to protest the district's unfair practices, including threats, interrogation and surveillance of members who participated in last month's strike vote."

An unfair practice charge strike — of a specific duration — can take place without going through the steps of the traditional negotiation process, both unions say.

United Teachers Los Angeles is also in the throes of labor negotiations, seeking a 20% wage increase over two years and a long list of initiatives. On Friday, it sent a letter to L.A. Unified Supt. Alberto Carvalho saying it was terminating its contract with the district, a legal maneuver that would allow its members to join Local 99's strike, according to information posted online by UTLA.

The joint rally with Local 99 is intended to demonstrate the force of union solidarity, ratcheting up pressure on the district. If Local 99 does not reach an agreement, teachers would stay home or picket alongside them, UTLA said in an online post.

"Terminating the contract takes away from LAUSD executing a frivolous legal argument that they raised in 2019 that terminating the contract must occur before … UTLA as an organization can engage" in a strike, a union FAQ states. The union was referring to an attempt by L.A. Unified to delay or halt what became a six-day teachers strike in January 2019.

Local 99 had previously terminated its contract with the district, clearing the way for its walkout. Local 99 said in a statement that it was canceling its contract "to protest LAUSD's harassment of workers who participated in union activities, including a vote to strike last month. The cancellation of the contract also ends a 'no strike' provision, moving workers one step closer to a possible strike to protest the district's unlawful practices."

While attention typically focuses on teachers because of their vital role and political clout, the contribution of Local 99 members also is essential.

Students rely on the meals cooked and served by Local 99 members. Its members drive buses, provide supervision during breaks and before and after school, keep restrooms stocked and cleaned and help take care of students with disabilities. But many of the job categories are low-paying — in L.A. Unified and elsewhere.

The average annual pay for the unit with instructional aides, including those for special education, is $27,531. The average for the unit that includes bus drivers, custodians and food-service workers is $31,825. Teacher assistants on average make $22,657. Those in the unit that includes after-school program workers average $14,576.

The vast majority, about 24,000 Local 99 members, work fewer than eight hours a day. About 6,000 work eight-hour jobs. Many union members are part of households with school-age students, including many in L.A. Unified.

The teachers union was firm in telling members to support a Local 99 strike.

"You do not go into work," UTLA advised. "You should join the [Local 99] picket line at your school site. If there is not a picket line at your school site, you should join one at a nearby school. There will be rallies during the strike and everyone should plan on attending those as well."

In a statement Wednesday, L.A. Unified acknowledged the possibility of a strike: "SEIU Local 99 provided 10 days notice of their intent to end their contract with Los Angeles Unified. This action takes them one step closer to a strike, which would cause a significant disruption to instruction, and would adversely impact our entire system."

The district posted on social media that its offers to employees are fair.

In a tweet, Carvalho said, "I deeply care about our dedicated staff and students' well-being. We must continue meeting with our labor partners to keep our schools open for students, who should always be our first priority. I'm hopeful that we can reach an agreement as soon as possible."

In touting the benefits of its wage proposal to Local 99, L.A. Unified said its minimum wage of $20 per hour would surpass by at least 25% what is required by Los Angeles County, as well as California.

"To reach a swift conclusion and come to an agreement that is fair to our hard-working staff while maintaining our ability to serve students, Los Angeles Unified presented a historic, comprehensive offer," the district stated.

The UTLA letter to the district accuses it of unreasonably clinging to a multibillion-dollar reserve and negotiating in bad faith. The letter says L.A. Unified has "barely budged in its position over such crucial issues as class size, staffing ratios, compensation, Special Education, the Black Student Achievement Plan, Community Schools, and more."

Teachers are seeking a 10% raise for each of the next two years. The district has offered a raise of 5% per year plus two one-time bonuses of 5%. Carvalho has indicated that there is room to offer more but suggested that the union must compromise on other issues.

The teachers union has a complex "Beyond Recovery" platform that goes well beyond salaries and benefits. UTLA is demanding a guaranteed continuation of programs to elevate Black students' education and efforts to provide low-income families with housing — although it's not clear which of these planks the union would be willing to strike over.

It's uncertain whether the district could keep campuses open if both unions were to walk out simultaneously. During the 2019 teachers strike, campuses remained open — providing food and supervision — but instruction was limited and attendance was low.

"We are concerned about the devastating impact more missed learning would have on students and their families," said Ana Teresa Dahan, managing director of the local advocacy group GPSN. "And we also worry about what a strike does to the income of workers who are already barely making ends meet, if at all.

"We recognize that this is a critical moment for SEIU 99 — which is trying to lift their members out of poverty," she added. "We are hopeful the leaders on both sides have the will and a way to resolve this for the students, families and employees who have the most at stake in this situation."

Union leaders are optimistic that they will have strong parental support, as they did during the 2019 strike. But some parents are expressing concern.

"I think this is difficult," said Maria Sanchez, a parent at Marlton School, which serves students who are deaf or hard of hearing. "As it is, we're having a hard time without enough bus drivers and teachers. This entire situation will only get harder."

The unions and district "must put differences aside and act in the best interest of students to reach a fair agreement quickly," said Christie Pesicka, spokesperson for a parents group that has been critical of the teachers union. "I fear more disruptions will be the final straw for many families — further exacerbating an already plummeting enrollment and educational crisis."

The next negotiation session between the district and the teachers union is scheduled for Friday.

A Local 99 spokesperson said it has no bargaining session scheduled, but the two sides remained involved "in the mediation/fact-finding process facilitated by the state of California."

"We are currently awaiting dates from the California Public Employment Relations Board to begin the fact-finding process," said Local 99 spokesperson Blanca Gallegos.

Lottery results

For Friday, March 10, 2023

Mega Millions
Mega number is **bold**

9-20-59-60-63—**Mega 5**
Jackpot: $203 million

California winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + Mega	0	—
5	0	—
4 + Mega	3	$8,593
4	69	$420
3 + Mega	159	$207
3	3,779	$10
2 + Mega	3,301	$10
1 + Mega	27,321	$4
Mega only	67,909	$2

Winning jackpot ticket(s) sold in other states: None

For Saturday, March 11, 2023

SuperLotto Plus
Mega number is **bold**

13-16-35-36-38—**Mega 25**
Jackpot: $40 million

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

11-20-33-43-58—**Powerball 24**
Jackpot: $45 million

Fantasy Five: 1-21-22-37-39

Daily Four: 0-5-4-6

Daily Three (midday): 2-8-7

Daily Three (evening): 6-0-6

Daily Derby:
(7) Eureka
(1) Gold Rush
(4) Big Ben
Race time: 1:45.45

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery
General information:
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IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

WE DON'T HAVE THIS BACK HOME! Audrey Williamson, 6, visiting from Florida, is all smiles as she slides down a slope off Highway 2 in Wrightwood. Not surprisingly, it was the first time in her life that she'd seen snow, let alone play in it.

Suspect in '97 bank killing held

The 55-year-old is accused of shooting a teller during a robbery in Thousand Oaks.

By Christian Martinez

A suspect in the fatal shooting of a teller during a 1997 bank robbery in Thousand Oaks has been arrested, the Ventura County Sheriff's Office announced Friday.

The suspect was identified as 55-year-old Kevin Ray James of San Bernardino.

Little information about the arrest was disclosed Friday with officials set to hold a news conference about the case Tuesday in Thousand Oaks.

The case has haunted law enforcement and the family of 39-year-old Monica Lynne Leech, who was shot and killed in the robbery at Western Financial Bank.

On the morning of April 28, 1997, two masked men dressed in long jackets and yellow hardhats entered the bank on Thousand Oaks Boulevard. The men berated bank employees, including Leech, forced them into a small room and handcuffed them.

Leech was shot in the back of the head, execution style.

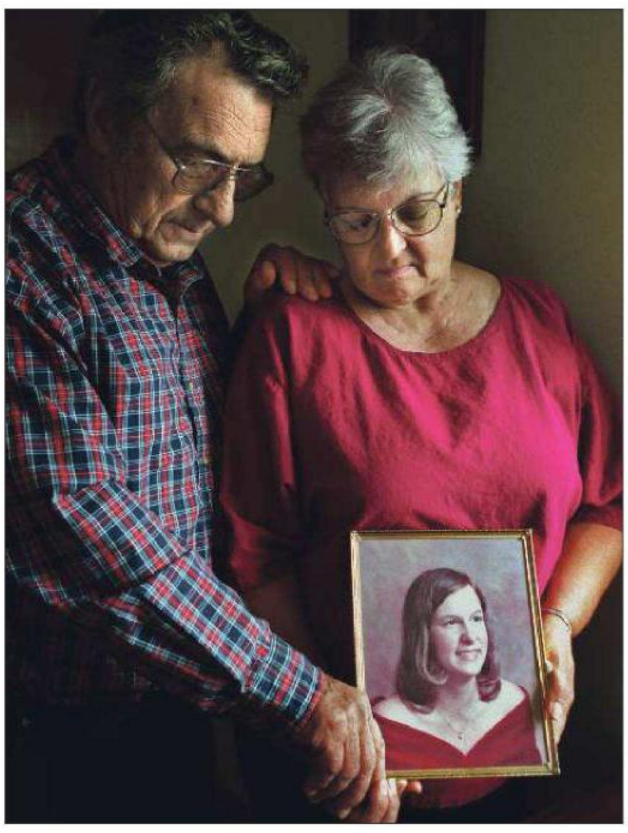
Why Leech was shot with such violence has baffled investigators and others who were present at the robbery.

"Why Monica? That's one of the things that's so hard to deal with. Why in the world did they do that?" former bank manager DeeDee Smith told The Times in 1998, a year after the incident. "It was the violence — just the sheer violence of it."

The Sheriff's Office said in 2021 that Leech had obeyed the suspects' orders and had not resisted.

After the shooting, the suspects fled in a white 1994 Ford Explorer with about $9,000.

In 2021, the Sheriff's Office said that new DNA evidence and technology "bolstered optimism that a suspect will be located, arrested and prosecuted."



ANNE CUSACK Los Angeles Times

AL AND ELAINE Cavaletto hold one of their favorite pictures of daughter Monica Lynne Leech in 1999.

Teacher charged with child sex abuse

Educator is accused of an 'inappropriate relationship' with a 13-year-old.

By Noah Goldberg

A teacher in National City who won a Teacher of the Year award in August was arrested and booked into county jail for an "inappropriate relationship" with a 13-year-old former student, police said.

Jacqueline Ma, 34, was a teacher at Lincoln Acres Elementary in National City — just south of San Diego — where she taught fifth and sixth grades.

On Monday, a "concerned parent" reached out to the National City Police Department saying she was afraid her 13-year-old was being treated inappropriately by Ma, according to a news release.

The next day, detectives developed probable cause to arrest the teacher.

She was booked into jail on "numerous felony charges" and was released on bail, according to police.

Detectives continued to investigate and rearrested Ma on Thursday, charging her with additional felonies in the case.

She is now being held without bail at Las Colinas Detention Facility.

Police did not release details on the suspected criminal activity because the alleged victim is a minor.

The teacher is charged with seven counts of possession of child pornography and four counts of sexual exploitation of a child.

MELISSA JACOBS

JACQUELINE MA is being held without bail on multiple charges.

She is also charged with two counts of committing lewd or lascivious acts with a child.

Finally, Ma is charged with attempting to dissuade a witness from testifying.

National School District Supt. Leighangela Brady said at a school board meeting Wednesday that the community was trying to process the "unthinkable situation."

Ma had been a teacher in the district since 2013 and had a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's in education, both from UC San Diego, according to her Teacher of the Year profile in the San Diego Union Tribune.

The award was announced last year by the San Diego County Office of Education.

Her colleagues at the time said she was instrumental in helping Lincoln Acres Elementary adjust to using technology for teaching during the pandemic.

"I could not have survived without her when it came to virtual learning," teacher Cynthia Valle-Lone said at the time.

Study finds inequities in L.A. air pollution

By Terry Castleman

Despite the conventional wisdom, not everybody drives all the time in L.A. Those who don't, it turns out, pay more of a price in terms of the air they breathe than major car commuters, according to a new study.

Researchers from the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy concluded that residents of wealthier, whiter areas exported air pollution to the neighborhoods around their commutes.

"There's this consistent injustice in air pollution exposure," said Geoff Boeing, an assistant professor at the school and co-author of the study.

Past studies have established that "there's a statistically significant difference in exposure levels, particularly in home locations, between white groups and nonwhite groups," said Boeing, adding that those exposed most to harmful air are "usually Black and Hispanic groups."

Given what he called a "foundational injustice," Boeing said he and his co-authors sought to answer a related question about air pollution: Are you being exposed to more than you're producing? What they found was that when controlling for every other variable possible, residents who drove more were exposed to less air pollution, and vice versa.

They also noted a distinct racial effect.

"Even when you're controlling for everything else, a whiter tract is going to be exposed to less air pollution," Boeing said, referring to census tracts, geographical areas of about 4,000 people.

Boeing used the examples of Bel Air and Baldwin Hills to illustrate his point. Both are relatively wealthy, but the whiter area — Bel Air — is much farther from freeway infrastructure, increasing drive times for residents while decreasing their exposure to air pollution. As a Bel Air resident, "you have to drive more to access your daily needs, but you're farther from where pollution is generated," he said.

On the other side of the equation, he pointed to Pico-Union and Boyle Heights, where less wealthy people are more "dependent on public transit or walking or biking" — therefore likely to generate less air pollution while being "surrounded on all sides by freeways."

Racial discrimination around road building and use is not accidental, experts say. Interstates 5, 10 and 110 were built over Black and Latino neighborhoods, while freeways proposed to cross whiter, richer areas in Reseda, Laurel Canyon and Beverly Hills were stopped.

Boeing and his team also ran commute simulations to model which routes drivers from various areas take to their jobs.

"Drivers from whiter tracts tended to traverse tracts that were much less white than their home tracts," he said, noting that the models showed "a lot of excess driving from whiter communities across Black and brown communities in the L.A. basin."

The reverse situation, in which people of color commute through whiter communities, was much less common, he said.

Times staff writers Liam Dillon and Ben Poston contributed to this report.

Who can help Mayor Karen Bass fix Metro?

L.A. leader plans to fill vacancy on transit board for a system facing challenges.

By David Zahniser and Rachel Uranga

If there's one agency that will need strong oversight from Mayor Karen Bass in the coming years, it's Metro.

Drug overdoses have become an urgent issue on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's transit network. Customers have voiced alarm about rising crime on the system's buses and trains. Rail ridership is still well below pre-pandemic levels.

So it's not surprising that Bass has been focused in recent days on filling the Metro board seat previously occupied by former Councilmember Mike Bonin, who pushed for free fares and a cadre of unarmed ambassadors to improve transit safety.

Bass, a Metro board member herself, told The Times she intends to choose a council member to replace Bonin and has interviewed three candidates for the post. Her choice could prove crucial to the future of the countywide agency, which is building new rail lines to the Westside, Los Angeles International Airport and elsewhere while confronting new financial pressures.

One politician actively seeking the seat is Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, who took office in December and has a district with subway and light-rail stations. Another is Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, who is based in the San Fernando Valley, where a light-rail line is planned along Van Nuys Boulevard.

Politically, those two come from very different places. Rodriguez took office in 2017 with major support from construction trade unions and the Los Angeles Police Protective League, which represents LAPD officers. Hernandez was backed by the Democratic Socialists of America-Los Angeles and Ground Game L.A., which have called for the defunding or abolition of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Both women have demonstrated an independent streak, at times voting no when all or most of their colleagues voted yes. Rodriguez cast dissenting votes on redistricting, a South L.A. hotel project and changes to the city's censure process. Hernandez recently opposed an LAPD gun buyback program, a plan to send police staff to a symposium on female officers and a $54-million extension of Metro's policing contract, which she called an improper use of public funds.

The mayor's power at Metro stems from the fact that she appoints three of Metro's 13 board seats. That makes it essential that she and the other three stick together when seeking to advance the mayor's transit agenda, said Richard Katz, who served on Metro's board under Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

"It takes seven votes to get anything done there. The L.A. delegation from the city is four, and that puts you a lot closer to reaching your goal if you can count on all four votes," he said.

One area where Hernandez has an edge: backing by a coalition of pro-transit and anti-poverty groups, which sent a letter to Bass endorsing her for the Metro post. Laura Raymond, director of the Alliance for Community Transit-Los Angeles, told The Times that Hernandez will "fight for equity and representation" on behalf of transit riders of color and low-income riders.

Meanwhile, there is yet another contender for the Metro seat — Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, a onetime aide to County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, who spent eight years on Metro's board. Metro is extending the Purple Line subway into Yaroslavsky's Westside district, while also planning a north-south Sepulveda Pass rail line that would connect her district with the Valley.

Yaroslavsky voiced interest in those two projects, as well as efforts to build affordable housing on Metro properties. "However, the decision is the mayor's alone to make, and any one of the highly qualified candidates for the position would be incredible additions to the Metro board," she said in a statement.

Bass expects to make her decision within a week. Her spokesperson, Zach Seidl, said the mayor's priority for the agency is to "boldly address homelessness and to make Metro safer for everyone."

This article was originally published in L.A. on the Record, The Times' local government newsletter. To subscribe visit latimes.com/newsletters.

A reimbursement for snow removal costs

By Summer Lin

San Bernardino County residents are now eligible to be reimbursed up to $500 for snow removal costs at their property.

Residents are typically responsible for the removal of snow and berms from their private property. But because of the "unprecedented snowfall" from recent storms, unincorporated county residents and business owners are eligible to receive the reimbursements for out-of-pocket expenses they may incur by hiring a private vendor or renting machinery for snow removal.

Costs eligible for reimbursement include snow removal from private property, driveways, walkways and private roads. The reimbursement is one time only, limited to one applicant per property/address or business and limited to work that was performed beginning Feb. 22.

The program is not available for vacant homes, unoccupied vacation rental properties or unimproved parcels.

All removal work must be completed by May 1 and claims must be submitted to the county by May 10.

The San Bernardino Mountains have been hit especially hard by storms that blanketed the region with record snowfall.

BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

DAVE MACK, a volunteer from Sandals Church, shovels a path for Denise Goss in Crestline.

O.C. Parks

MICKEY IS ACCLIMATING to his new habitat, the Orange County Zoo manager says. The jaguar arrived in Orange about a month ago from the Wildlife World Zoo in Arizona and is part of the large-mammal exhibit.

Jaguar makes debut at O.C. Zoo

The 11-month-old cub named Mickey greets visitors for first time since his arrival.

By Andrew J. Campa

There's a new Mickey in Orange County, though he has a ways to go before he's as ubiquitous as his Anaheim counterpart.

The O.C. Zoo in Orange debuted its 11-month-old, 50-pound jaguar named Mickey last week after the facility received the big cat about a month ago.

The screen blocking Mickey's enclosure was raised on Monday, allowing the jaguar and the zoo's visitors to meet.

"Although he's been here for a while, he's been acclimating to his new habitat behind visual blocks," said zoo manager Don Zeigler, who's been working at the eight-acre center inside the 477-acre Irvine Regional Park since 1991. "Now he has full visibility to not just view people but other habitats around him."

According to Zeigler, Mickey was a gift from the Wildlife World Zoo of Litchfield Park, Ariz.

The zoo's owner, Mickey Ollson, died in January 2022 but not before promising Zeigler a big cat, with one stipulation.

"He told me that if I ever had a proper habitat suitable for a jaguar [then] he would either gladly loan me or give me an animal," said Zeigler, noting that the O.C. Zoo now owns Mickey. "We both had a desire to educate the public about jaguars."

According to the World Wildlife Federation, there are around 173,000 jaguars on Earth, with about half residing in Brazil.

Zeigler said the animals once roamed the American Southwest, calling the states of Arizona, New Mexico and Texas home.

A jaguar known as El Jefe was believed to be the last in the United States, according to AZCentral, but left Tucson in 2022 for Mexico. Another, however, named Sombra, was spotted in Arizona's Chiricahua Mountains later that year.

Mickey's arrival also marks a reunion as he joins his brother, Ziggy, a 3-year-old, 145-pound jaguar who debuted when the zoo opened its two-acre large-mammal exhibit in May.

The exhibit now boasts one male and two female mountain lions, and the brother jaguars.

Zeigler said half of the enclosure is connected by bridges, intended to allow the cats to optimize their roaming space.

The goal for the zoo is to strengthen Mickey as he reaches adulthood, which Zeigler estimates will be the two-year mark. He hopes Mickey will grow to about 140 pounds.

Mickey's diet consists of ground meat, bones, minerals and vitamins, and he eats from 2% to 4% of his body weight daily, he said.

Mickey is more elusive than his outgoing brother, Zeigler said..

"Instinctually, they are more solitary animals in the wild," Zeigler said. "Right now he is not always out, but that may change as he gets more comfortable."

'Baywatch' star is on trial over duo's chicken 'rescue'

Alexandra Paul and another woman are shown taking fowls from a firm's truck.

By Christian Martinez

Former "Baywatch" star Alexandra Paul and another woman went on trial this week in Merced County after taking two chickens from a Foster Farms truck outside a California plant.

The incident, which occurred in September, was captured on video by animal activist organization Direct Action Everywhere.

The video shows Paul and Alicia Santurio running up to an idling semi that is carrying a trailer full of chickens outside Foster Farms' Livingston plant. They open a chicken cage and grab two chickens.

The pair run back to a waiting car as the chickens squawk in their arms and ruffle their feathers.

Paul and Santurio were charged with misdemeanor theft. Jury selection in their trial began Tuesday.

Paul said the action was an "open rescue" of the chickens from alleged mistreatment at the plant.

"We published this video within an hour with both my name and Alicia Santurio's name attached to it because we believe what we're doing is legal and morally right," Paul said in an interview with The Times.

"We're rescuing sick chickens from a factory farm that has a history of abusing them," she said.

Paul and Direct Action Everywhere said that the chickens that were taken were sick and that one died shortly after it was pulled from the truck despite receiving veterinary care.

Foster Farms did not respond to a request for comment.

The company, however, spoke to the New York Times in February about video of the plant taken by Direct Action Everywhere activists and said the allegations of animal mistreatment were "without merit."

> 'We published this video within an hour ... because we believe what we're doing is legal and morally right.'
>
> — Alexandra Paul, actress working with activist group Direct Action Everywhere

The Livingston plant was also the site of a COVID-19 outbreak among workers in 2020 that killed eight people.

Paul and Santurio's trial comes a few months after two Direct Action activists were acquitted in Utah after taking piglets from a farm owned by pork giant Smithfield Foods.

A video of that incident was also posted to YouTube by the organization.

"The prosecution has offered us five deals, and we have said no," Paul said. "When I think about the consequences for me, they are minimal compared to what the animals are going through."

Teen backpackers huddle to survive as storm derails journey

San Bernardino sheriff says 17-year-olds spent three nights in cold before being rescued.

By Grace Toohey

One day after a historic blizzard warning for the San Bernardino County mountains expired, Riley Ramirez and Cole White began a 10-day backpacking trip on the Pacific Crest Trail through parts of the snow-blasted mountains.

The first two days of their journey appeared to go as planned. But on Feb. 28 — right as a second brutal winter storm was moving into the region — the parents of the 17-year-olds lost contact with them.

Snowfall picked up in the mountains that afternoon, dumping more than 30 inches in 24 hours in some places, according to the National Weather Service, on top of snow from the earlier blizzard. Many mountain communities were snowed in, forcing rescues and requiring additional resources for the growing emergency.

The teen hikers likely encountered 4- to 5-foot-high snowdrifts, limited visibility and freezing temperatures, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office.

On March 3 — three days since anyone had contact with Riley and Cole — their parents called for a search-and-rescue team to find the teenagers along the trail near Mt. San Gorgonio, Southern California's highest peak.

A sheriff's helicopter spotted the duo along a remote section of the trail near Mission Creek and landed in heavy snow to take the 17-year-olds back to safety, according to the sheriff's office.

The teens were slightly hypothermic after spending three nights huddling together to stay warm, according to the Associated Press. They told sheriff's officials they did not think they were going to survive.

Riley's father, Cesar Ramirez, told the AP that his son's jacket had blown away and their tent had broken. He said the teens were avid, well-prepared hikers with extensive training and plans to join the military.

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[**Speaker,** from B1]

him "my Kevin."

But McCarthy was furious with the then-president for not quelling the insurrectionists who breached the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. That was followed by a number of contradictory statements about the president's responsibility for the violence, first publicly blaming him, then saying Trump did not incite the mob.

Nearly a year ago, audio recordings emerged of McCarthy telling fellow GOP leaders in early 2021 that he planned to urge Trump to resign during the waning days of his presidency. But recently, McCarthy decided to hand over some 41,000 hours of Jan. 6 security video to Fox News' Tucker Carlson, who used the material to fuel an effort to explain away the deadly Capitol attack.

The California Republican Party remains home to a large number of Trump acolytes, some of whom were irked by McCarthy's criticism of the former president in the aftermath of Jan. 6.

"To be honest with you, I don't really think he's handled it as well as he should," said Elvira Moreno, a 54-year-old delegate from Orange County.

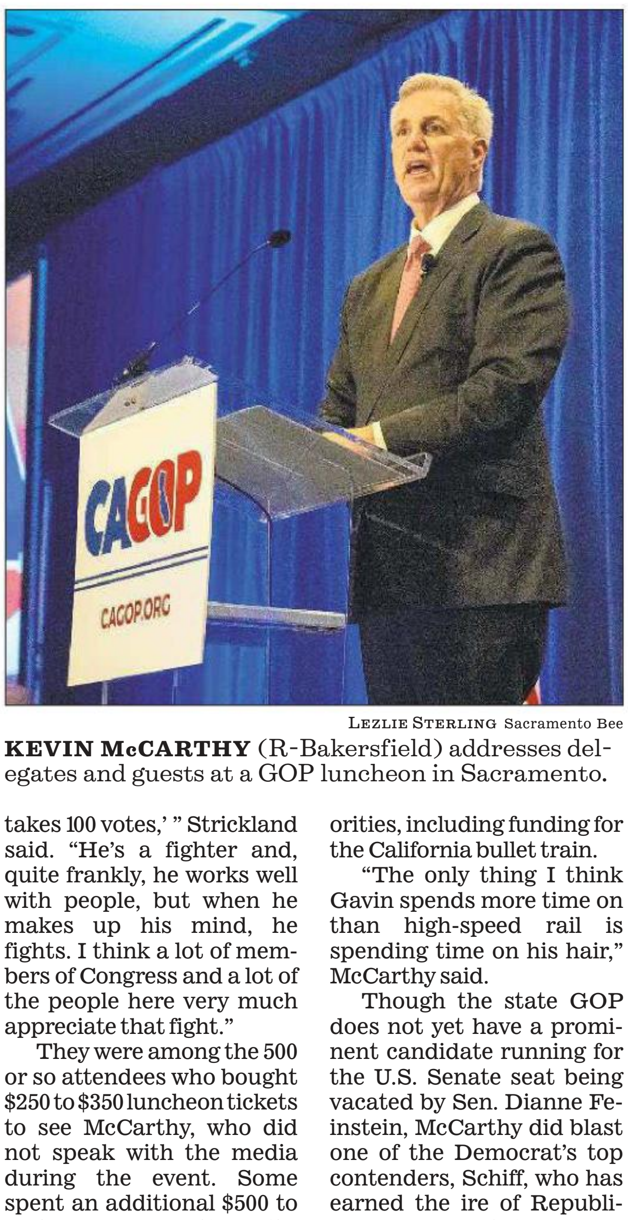
She said he should have hashed out his differences with Trump privately in order to present a united front: "With him not backing his friend, if they were ever friends, just from what I saw, I didn't feel that he took a strong stand."

But Moreno, who wore a Trump lanyard and brought along a years-old picture of herself with McCarthy from a previous convention, said she felt pride in seeing the Bakersfield native rise to become second in line to the presidency. She also supported the actions he has taken since becoming speaker, such as booting Democratic Reps. Adam B. Schiff of Burbank, Eric Swalwell of Dublin and Ilhan Omar of Minnesota from congressional committees.

"He's showing us that he's doing the job," Moreno said. "Accountability is very important, transparency. What he said was really what I wanted to hear as a Californian, as an involved individual for over 35 years."

Huntington Beach Mayor Tony Strickland, who recalled entertaining and hosting poker nights when he shared a Sacramento house with McCarthy and Doug LeMalfa when the trio were in the state Legislature in the early 2010s, said he was proud of McCarthy and not surprised that he was successful.

"I said, 'He will be speaker, I don't care if it takes 100 votes,' " Strickland said. "He's a fighter and, quite frankly, he works well with people, but when he makes up his mind, he fights. I think a lot of members of Congress and a lot of the people here very much appreciate that fight."



Lezlie Sterling Sacramento Bee

KEVIN McCARTHY (R-Bakersfield) addresses delegates and guests at a GOP luncheon in Sacramento.

They were among the 500 or so attendees who bought $250 to $350 luncheon tickets to see McCarthy, who did not speak with the media during the event. Some spent an additional $500 to go to a VIP reception with the speaker and take a picture with him.

McCarthy's speech included popular Republican touchstones such as fortifying the border, expanding parental rights, supporting law enforcement, opposing China and making fun of Gov. Gavin Newsom's coiffure as he criticized the Democrat's spending priorities, including funding for the California bullet train.

"The only thing I think Gavin spends more time on than high-speed rail is spending time on his hair," McCarthy said.

Though the state GOP does not yet have a prominent candidate running for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, McCarthy did blast one of the Democrat's top contenders, Schiff, who has earned the ire of Republicans because of his role as a top Democratic foe to Trump.

"He should never become senator," McCarthy said, arguing that Schiff took his "eye off the ball" on issues such as foreign policy and the supply chain.

The speech was the marquee event of an otherwise relatively sleepy three-day convention at the Hyatt Regency.

No presidential candidates attended despite the state's primary taking place less than a year from now, and California offering the largest cache of delegates of any state in the nation. Orange County GOP Chairman Fred Whitaker referred to the 2024 presidential race as a "crusade" during an invocation Saturday.

Former Rep. Devin Nunes, who left Congress to lead Trump's social media company, was supposed to speak Friday night but canceled because of weather problems. Two members of Congress spoke in his place, and three more spoke Saturday night, including newly elected Rep. John Duarte of the Modesto and Rep. Michelle Steel of Seal Beach, who beat back a challenge in a tight district that includes swaths of Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Such electoral results were among the few causes of celebration for a party that last won statewide office in 2006, and whose voters are outnumbered nearly 2 to 1 by Democrats.

Republicans would not have their five-seat majority in Congress without these two wins, plus three other pickups in California in 2020, McCarthy said, as he called for the reelection of state party Chairwoman Jessica Millan Patterson during Sunday's internal party elections.

"In the last two cycles, we have done nothing but win," McCarthy said, ignoring the lack of statewide success and the party's dismal showing in last year's attempted recall of Newsom.

Millan Patterson, a protégé of McCarthy's whom he first urged to run for the party post in 2019, is widely expected to easily win reelection.

Los Angeles Times

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Coins & Stamps

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4591SharonDr.7:00-2 Tools, clothes,furniture,jewelry

Prop House Liquidation
Restaurant, including multiple chairs.Lighting including Italian Designer.Tons of misc items in this first of 5 sales. Saturday 9-5 Sunday 10-4
6251 W 98th St at LAX Airport. (360)888-3297

Garage Sale
Sun.3/12 10am3pm Goodland/Hatteras Valley Vlg.

Special Occasions

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MY LOVE!!
I know you weren't exactly looking forward to this year's birthday, so I just wanted to do something subtle for you..just between you and me. I love you so much and every year I look forward to celebrating you. I know you would rather this one just quietly pass by, so don't worry. I won't make a big deal about it or anything. It's not like I would announce it to the greater Los Angeles area and Ventura County or anything like that. That would be weird. So here's to an awesome, low-key (ageless) b-day celebration weekend at home. Happy Birthday Handsome...you mean the world to me and I couldn't imagine my life without you. I love you xoxo M+M

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LEGAL NOTICES 1300

Bids Wanted

Request for Sealed Bid: HEAD START Playground Replacement & Renovation Project

Children's Institute (CII), a participant in the Federal Head Start Program is seeking sealed bids from Contractors for a Playground Replacement & Renovation Project. Sealed Bids are due by March 31, 2023. Please direct questions regarding this request for Sealed Bids to Lizeth Bravo at lbravo@childrensinsitute.org.

You're connected. Los Angeles Times latimes.com.

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Bids Wanted

INVITATION TO BID
VOALA is accepting bids for site preparation for (2) Modular Building Installation (provided by others) in Compton, CA. Interested parties shall request a bid package and will be given site info. Contact Esther Rivera (estherrivera@voala.org) no later than 3/17/23. Final bids will be accepted up to 12 PM PST on 3/31/23.

Legal Notices

MV Transportation - City of Glendale Public Works Dept
MV Transportation, Inc. (MV) is proposing as a prime contractor in response to the City of Glendale Public Works Department, RFP NO. PWA 2023-201 project located in Glendale, CA. The proposal due date is 3/29/2023. We would appreciate letters of interest from Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms who are currently certified, active and without restrictions with the California Unified Certification Program (CUCP) for the following services: Uniforms, Automotive Parts, Tires, Oils and Lubricants, Towing Services, Janitorial & Landscaping Services, Vehicle Servicing (Cleaning, Fueling, Probing & Detailing). For additional information, assistance with bonding, lines of credit, insurance, to receive a copy of the RFP, or to receive a quote form and scope of work detail, please contact Aleena Beaty at MVD-BE2@mvtransit.com or (972) 689-8831. The DBE Quote Deadline is March 22, 2023.

INVITATION FOR BIDS SOLICITATION FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES FOR CUSTOM AND COMMERCIAL FIRE APPARATUS

The Los Angeles County Fire Department is soliciting bids from qualified companies interested in providing maintenance and repair services for its Custom and Commercial Fire Apparatus and Equipment.

The anticipated Contract term for the services above will be for an initial three (3) years, with two (2) possible one-year and twelve (12) possible month-to-month extension options, for a potential maximum contract term of six (6) years.

To obtain solicitation documents for the services above, please contact Andrea Hawkins via email at: Andrea.Hawkins@fire.lacounty.gov.
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Employment

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Budget Accountant sought by Absolute Security International Inc. to analyze operational cost data, financial data, project revenues & expenses, and advise management in preparation of budgeting reports, etc. Salary: $81,390 per year. Send resume to job site at 4255 Tyler Ave., El Monte, CA 91731. Attn. Martin Shih.

Employment

Michael H. Lester JD CPA Business Management seeks Accountants. Mstrs. in Bus. Admin, Acct'g, or related field. Prepare tax returns, fin. planning/consulting. Salary $72,134/yr. Mail resume to: 1990 Westwood Blvd. #200, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Administrative Assistant for home health care provider at $52,166/yr. Mail to Annex Healthcare Providers, Inc., 22041 Clarendon St, #200, Woodland Hills, CA 91367

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Qualified applicants should apply by sending resumes and cover letters to stephen.england@ba.com

Bus. Sys's Analyst (Redondo Beach, CA). Responsible for daily support of co's ops under IT team. Bachelor's (or foreign equiv) Sys. Engg., Mgmt. Info. Sys., CS or rel & 2 yrs exp in IT rel to agricultural ops & sales. Job reqs exp w/ test & maintain comp. programs & sys. Fluency in spoken & written English & Spanish. Req. travel up to 10% of the time to different locs in US, Mexico, & South America to manage projects. Salary: Ninety-six thousand and ninety-six dollars/yr. Apply by email: Send cover letter & resume to NZG Specialties Inc at:
hr@gourmettrading.net

Market Analyst in Brea, CA: Please send resume to SLE, Inc. 5125 S. 36th St. Omaha, NE 68107 wage range from $44,803 to $50,000.

Market Research Analyst: Conduct research & data analysis; 40hrs/wk. Apply to Beautiful Giant, Inc., 17531 Railroad St., Ste. A, City of Industry, CA 91748

GoodRx, Inc. seeks Sr. Business Intelligence Analyst to assist in the strategy, optimization, and reporting of individual brand marketing campaigns and the overall brand strategy. Salary: $95,000 to $105,000 per year. Worksite: Santa Monica, CA office and various unanticipated worksites throughout the US. Email resumes to jobs@goodrx.com.

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Employment

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Experian Information Solutions, Inc. in Costa Mesa, CA is seeking to fill the position of Director, Product Management (Analytics) for driving the product strategy, roadmap, and execution for Experian products. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the U.S. Role incl. a comprehensive benefits pkg including hlth, life and disability insurance, PTO incl 12 paid holidays & parental & family care leave, employee stock purchase plan and 401(k) plan w/ company match. Send resumes and salary inquiries to Amy Harmon, HR, via email at Amy.Harmon@experian.com. Must reference job code: 20596.544

Marathon Petroleum Company LP in Carson, CA needs a Sr. Business Analyst IT. Acts as a liaison between the Information Technology (IT) development group and the company's business/refining units for the development and implementation of new systems and enhancement of existing systems. $136,157-$140,101yr. Please visit our career website at https://jobs.marathonpetroleum.com/ and apply online. EOE: Veteran/Disability

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Sr Apps Architects at Keenan in Torrance, CA. Telecom ok. Dsgn, dvlp & implmt SW apps & db architecture. $155K/yr. App: recruiter1@keenan.com, Subj: Job ID#: SAA900.

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Business Development Analyst sought by Absolute Security International Inc. to analyze & forecast sales trends, and devise business development strategies, etc. Salary: $60,715 per year. Job site: El Monte, CA. Resume to 4255 Tyler Ave., El Monte, CA 91731. Attn. Martin Shih.

Employment

Business Administrator: Master in Management req'd. 40 hrs/wk. Pay: $95,000/yr. Mail/email resume: Cavitation Technologies Inc - 10019 Canoga Ave, Chatsworth, CA 91311. CAVITECHNO@GMAIL.COM

Business Intelligence Developer to create complex business intelligence software for internal use. VCA Inc., Westlake Village, CA. Email resume to Corporate.TA@vca.com

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General Manager BS Auto, Inc. seeks a FT Gen. Mgr. Direct gen. mgmt. & biz. operations; 2 yrs exp. req'd; 40 hrs/week; Send resume to BS Auto @ 524 W. Commonwealth Ave. #N, Fullerton, CA 92832 Attn: Jungeun Kim

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The MathWorks, Inc. leads the market in developing & delivering high performance interactive software products to the engineering & scientific communities. We have openings for the following position available at our office in Torrance, CA:

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For all positions listed above, interested candidates may search by job code for a complete & detailed listing of job details & requirements and apply on-line on the Careers Page at www.mathworks.com. The MathWorks, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer. We evaluate qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, veteran status, and other protected characteristics. MathWorks participates in E-Verify.

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Deloitte Tax LLP seeks a Tax Senior in Los Angeles, CA to implement new tax software products & optimize svcs. provided via existing products. Position requires 50% travel. Salary: $86,800.00 – $161,200.00/yr. To apply visit https://apply.deloitte.com/. Enter XSFH23FT0223LOS2 in 'Search jobs" field. EOE, including disability/veterans.

Employment

COMPUTER/IT Riot Games, Inc. has the following job opportunities in Los Angeles, CA (Telecommuting permitted):
- Illustration Artist II (Req# 19-1320): Manage & art direct outsourced art projects. Req's: 1yr. exp. Salary: $136,000 - $190,000 per yr.
- Associate Software Engineer (Req# 20-9729): Dvlp highly available & robust services for League of Legends & future games. Req's: MS(or equiv.) + 1 yr. exp. Salary: $120,000 - $168,000 per yr.
- Staff Software Engineer (Req# 22-18306): Architect, dvlp & support distributed services used by millions of players. Req's: MS(or equiv.) + 2yrs. exp. Or BS(or equiv.)+5 yrs. exp. Salary: $170,000 - $238,000 per yr.

Submit resume w/ refs to: (include Req. # for position applying to) at: riotgames.job.applications@riotgames.com.

IT
City National Bank has multiple job opptys for Info Sec Sr Engr, Ref# LARBO - $156,076.00/yr to $156,176.00/yr; Progrmr Anlyst III, Ref# LARTH - $147,410.00/yr to $147,510.00/yr; Sr Full Stck Engr, Ref# LAPTH - $155,523.00/yr to $155,623.00/yr. May wrk from our HQ office in Los Angeles, CA or reside anywhere in the US & wrk remotely from home. May wrk at other US locatns not prsntly known. Email resume w/ Ref# to TalentAcquisition@cnb.com. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o spnsrshp. EOE

Jira Administrator needed by Disqo, Inc in Glendale, CA (Telecommuting is optional benefit of employ't & employee may live anywhere in U.S. Occasional work at HQ may be required) to perform work with stakeholders & multiple agile teams to translate bus. reqs into Jira projects, boards, reports, workflow, & plug-ins. Reqs: Master's in Comp. Sci., or a rel;. 2 yrs. exp. in job offered, or rel. Must have exp. customizing Jira projects with various schemes, complex workflows, screen schemes, permission schemes & notification schemes, exp. working in Agile envir't & solid understanding of Agile principles & project mgmt methodologies; ability to construct custom dashboards using various filter types in Jira; ability to write scripts to automate & customize Jira, ability to write custom JQL (Jira Query Language). Salary range $95K to $140K. Send resume to Disqo at anthony.fabiano@disqo.com

Prophecy Consulting Seeks Oracle Cloud Consultant. Must have MS in Information Technology or related or a BS in the same with 5+ years of exp. Work site: Irvine, CA Apply: kumar@prophecyconsulting.com

Prophecy Tech. Seeks SAP Consultant. Must have MS in Computer Science or a BS with 5+ years of exp. Work site: Irvine, CA Apply: kumar@prophecytek.com

Cook $34,466/yr. Mail resume to Kazuki Sushi, 13212 Sherman Way, Ste. 1, N. Hollywood, CA 91605-4688.

Japanese restaurant seeks Cook (Japanese food). 2 yrs. of exp. as Cook (Japanese food) req'd. Worksite: San Clemente, CA. Send resume: Kyuma Corporation (dba: 9 Style Sushi), 1909 Colina Salida Del Sol, San Clemente, CA 92673. Attn: Mr. Komatsu

Cook (Persian) needed. Min. 2 yrs/exp. $41870/yr offered. Mail to Impressions Restaurant and Banquet Hall, 212 North Orange St., Glendale, CA 91203.

Thai Cooks
1 yr exp Resume JTT Enterprise LLC 8782 Grant Cir Buena Park CA 90620

Thai Cooks
1 yr exp Resume to Kanchana Inc 531 W Arrow Hwy San Dimas CA 91773

Thai Cooks
1 yr exp Resume The Original Hoy Ka Hollywood 5908 W. Sunset Blvd LA CA 90028 Attn: Mgr

Thai Cooks
1 yr exp req Resume to Amphai Northern Thai Food 5301 W Sunset Bl#11 LA CA 90027

Credit Risk Analyst I: analyze data and prepare loan portfolio & risk mgmt. reports. BS/BA in finance or rltd. 40 hrs/wk; pay range: $57,564-$65k/yr. Send resume to CTBC Bank Corp. (USA), Attn: Pearl Luu, 801 S. Figueroa St., Ste 2300, Los Angeles, CA 90017

Customer Serv. Rep: Identify, assess customer needs. Req. HS Diploma/GED + 2yrs exp in occups. involving customer serv, Bus. Admin or rel. Will accept 2 yrs of coursework in bus. admin or rel. in lieu of 2 yrs exp. $48,922/yr. Mail resume: Ichi Trading Corp, 2109 Sawtelle Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Employment

Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz PC (Los Angeles, CA) seeks Associate (Junior), Privacy to advse clnts on privacy laws & framewrks, incl CCPA, CPRA, VCDPA, GDPR, COPPA, CAN-SPAM, TCPA, HIPAA, biometric privacy law, wrkplce prvcy rules, & data secrty & data breach notfcatn laws. Draft & negotiate trnsctnl agreemnts invlvng data, incl master svcs agreemnts, data procssng addendums, vendor cntrcts, & SaaS agreemnts. Eval legality of clnts' proposed prjcts & prdcts, draft policies, terms, & procdres, & cndct prvcy due diligence & data privacy impact assessmnts. Assist clnts w/ rspndng to security incdnts, rqsts, & rgltry inquiries. Rsrch & draft legal memos in rspnse to clnt rqsts. Partcpate in public speakng engagemnts & panels, & write blog posts & clnt alerts. Reqs JD & 6 months of exp as Associate at an AmLaw 100 or 200 firm. Reqd exp mustve incl'd rsrchng CCPA, ILL Biometric Privacy Law, GDPR, unfair & deceptve practces laws (incl CA's), & data breach notfcatn laws; draftng cookie & privacy policies for media tchnlgy company or advrtsng agency. Must be member of CA bar. This role entails hybrd wrk, w/ time split betwn working in our LA office (at least 3 days per week) & flexibility to telecommute from another US location (for balance of work week). Salary: $215,000/yr. Email res to: ODiaz@fkks.com

Deloitte & Touche LLP seeks an Audit & Assurance Analytics Specialist Senior in Los Angeles, CA to lead audit analytics & data visualization efforts. Less than 10% travel outside of normal commuting distance. Salary: $77,700.00 - $144,300.00/yr. To apply visit https://apply.deloitte.com/. Enter XSFH23FA0323LOS1 in 'Search jobs" field. EOE, including disability/veterans.

Design: Adient Aerospace LLC seeks Sr Industrial Designer (Huntington Beach, CA) to initiate product design & development process & develop/solidify design criteria for aircraft seating product design. Up to 20% national/international travel. Telecommuting permitted. REQS: Bachelor's in Ind Design, Product Dev or related and 7 yrs of related exp or Master's in Ind Design, Product Dev or related and 5 yrs of related exp. PAY: $115,107/year. Email resume to trystan.parry@adient-aerospace.com [Reference Job Code: ZHA-SID].

Citizens of Humanity, LLC (Huntington Park, CA) seeks Creative Director to oversee creation & dvlpmt of all clothing lines (premium denim & sportswear). Dvlp mktg materials for product lines. Engage in public relations w/ press & customers. Select raw materials to be used to create products. Oversee & approve patterns. Supervise design & factory production dvlpmt teams. Dvlp strategic plans for product offerings. Significant domestic travel (primarily New York) + significant international travel (U.K., Italy & Turkey). Position reqs 5 yrs of exp in leading the design dept of a global denim brand; developing denim fabrics & perfecting the fit of denim products to be manufactured. Exp must also incl at least 3 yrs exp in advertising/marketing the brand's products on a global scale & participating in public relations efforts. Salary is $325,000 to $375,000 per year DOE. Email cover let & resume to jinhee.peralta@gmail.com. Ref: KP/CD. Direct apps only.

Director of Product - Provide tech'l vision, create roadmap, lead dsgn & dvlpmt of co's loan mgmt s/ware products, launch s/ware platforms & dvlp new & creative ways to optimize product exp, working under tight deadlines to coord several projects w/ multiple workflows simultaneously. Position req BS in CompSci, Info Tech or rltd & 2 yrs exp. Job w/ Camino Financial in Los Angeles, salary $110,000-$165,000. Email cvr ltr & resume to caminorecruitment@caminofinancial.com

MediaMonks, Inc. (Venice, CA) needs Group Account Director, SVP. Respsbl for overseeing agency relationship w/ high-profile clients to devise & deliver strat mrktng programs. Will work w/ agency partners, overseeing client financials, & manage a cross-functional team; ensure that all projs are provided in a timely, cost-effective manner while ensuring an effective processes across the team. Reqs a Bachelor's deg in Biz, Mrktng, Sales, Mgmt or rltd field (frgn equiv is acceptable). Must have 5 yrs of prog exp as a Mrktng mgr or rltd occupation incl three yrs of exp in digi mrktng. Min. Salary $195,936/yr. Telecommuting is permitted. Mail CV to R. Sahai, JobCode GAD722, 1214 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, CA 90291.

You're connected. Los Angeles Times latimes.com.

Employment

TBWA Worldwide Inc. d/b/a TBWA\Media Arts Lab (Los Angeles, CA) seeks Group Creative Director to dvlp & excute creatve directn & art directn for Apple advrtsng campgns, while stratgcally maintnng ovrarchng brand aesthetic acrss channels. Ensre dsgn & copywritng elemnts of campgns strngthn Apple's identity & brand name. Direct staff incl Assoc Creatve Director, Sr Art Director, Sr Copywritr, Sr Contnt Creator, Sr Dsgnr, Dsgnr, Dsgnr Director, &/or Tchnlgy Director in dvlpng visual dsgns & artwrk for Apple campgns, dvlpng & ovrseeng creation of tchncl dsgn from concept to launch, & utilzing leadng dsgn tools such as Adobe Illustratr, InDsgn, Photoshop, Figma & Sketch. Reqs Bach in Advrtsng, Mrktng, or Multimedia Commn, +4yrs of exp in pos offrd or as Creative Director at ad agency. All reqd exp mustve incl'd launchng & bringng new prdcts to mkt thru ad campgns, & prdcts / svcs; mngng team of at least 2 creatve prfssnls (art directrs, copywritrs, dsgners or contnt creators) in concptlzng, creatng, & excutng visual aspcts of major ad campgns & brand dsgn; conceivng & implmntng advrtsng, brand & intractve concpts, guidelnes, & strategies for creatve prjcts on range of mediums, incl TV, print, social media, billbrds, online, in-store, & prdct; cndctng intrviews & hirng new creatve team membrs & freelancrs; wrkng w/ sr clnts, sr agncy stakeholdrs & directr level clnts; & usng Photoshp, Illustratr, Figma, Sketch & Princple & Keynote. This role entails hybrd wrk, w/ time split btwn wrkng in our LA offce & flexibility to telecommute from another US location. E-mail résumé to: melissa.blanco@mediaartslab.com. Salary: $375,000/yr. Ref #76.

Christian Education Director (LA, CA) Direct, coordinate religious education programs for church members. Master of Divinity. $44117/yr. Resume to: The Lord's Hope Church, 2869 W Pico Blvd, LA, CA 90006

Electrician: to install, repair, and maintain power, lighting, communications, and control systems; Buffalo Electric Wholesale, Inc. 1220 W. Venice Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90006

(JC36) Sr. Security Engr -MS/equiv & 1 yr exp incl. CA Sitemindr, SAML/OIDC, Layer 7 API Gatway, LDAP, ODSEE, IBM ISAM, Cloud – AWS, MS Azur MFA, Apache/IIS, IBM Db2 DB, Oracl SQL, MySQL, Splunk, & Tenabl. $124,987.00/yr. Travel/reloc req'd. Send résumé w/JC# to Saviynt, Inc. 1301 E El Segundo Blvd, Ste D, El Segundo, CA 90245

Science-based baby products co. seeks an Algorithm Engineer to design & develop complex signal processing & machine learning algorithms in domain of human baby breathing, heartbeat, health, & behavior using device sensors. Reqs. Master's, or foreign equiv., in EE, Communications Sys. Engr., or rel., 2 yrs. of exp. in job offered, or as an Engr., Algorithm, Project & Research Assist., or rel. Exp. must include with Matlab, Python, Language C & advanced signal processing technologies. Job site: LA, CA. Work Auth. req'd if hired. Salary $105K - $145K. Send resume to: Happiest Baby, Inc. (hr@happiestbaby.com). Principals only.

ServiceTitan, Inc. seeks Associate Data Engineer in Glendale, CA 2 map dta frm legcy dtabses into the ST pltfrm. Telcom is avail 4 ths pos. Slry offrd: $81k to $101k. Send Resume to: rmclaughlin@servicetitan.com, Subject: Ref# ADE022023.

Prophecy Tech. Seeks Automation QA Engineer. Must have BS in Computer Science or Information Technology. Work site: Irvine, CA Apply:
kumar@prophecytek.com

Chemical Engineer sought by RadiaBeam Technologies in Santa Monica, CA. Master's or equiv in Chemical Eng, Materials Eng or rel field, plus 1 yr exp. $92,082/yr. Send resume to email: jobs@radiabeam.com

CSS Payroll Co, L.P. (Los Angeles, CA) seeks Engineering Manager to archtct, bld & maintn CSS infrstrctre for data storage, mgmt & anlytcs usng open srce tchnlgs Hadoop, Hive, Spark, Hudi, Trino & Pinot. Reqs MS in CompSci, Engg (Comp/Electrcl) or rltd fld +3yrs exp in pos offrd or sftwre dvpmt/engg pos. All reqd exp mustve incld prgrmmng w/ Java, Pythn, Golang, C & C++; usng & bldng Hadoop, Hive, Hive Metastore & Spark big-data procssng sys; usng & bldng streamng data orchstratn frmewrks; bldng, dvlpng & maintng scalble, prfrmant distrbutd computng sys used for data collectn, aggrgatn, storage, anlytcs & mchne learng; & mngng & providng tchncl leadrshp to team of at least 4 sftwre engnrs, incl priortzng wrk items, gathrng rqmts, delegatng tasks & ensrng timely dlvry of prods. Telecommutng permttd from any US locatn. Salary $225,000/yr. Email res to catarino.ruiz@cloudkitchens.com.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form six ordinary words.

AUPIOT

CELOAL

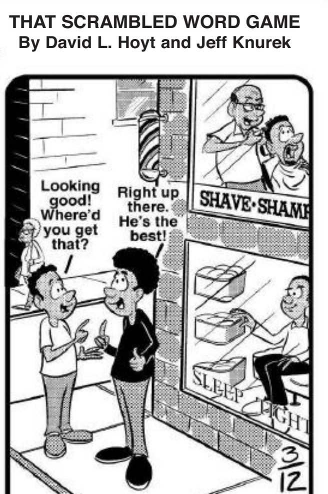
CNATAV

SFNUIO

DBTGEU

CRUIHN

Get the free **JUST JUMBLE** app • Follow us on Twitter **@PlayJumble**


Looking good! Where'd you get that?
Right up there. He's the best!
SHAVE·SHAMP
SLEEP
3/12
TO HIM, THE BARBER ONE FLOOR UP FROM THE MATTRESS STORE WAS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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latimes.com/placead | To place an ad call 1.800.234.4444

Los Angeles Times

Employment

Teradyne, Inc. seeks Calibration Engineer in Agoura Hills, CA to develop calibration programs and embedded algorithms for Digital, DC, AC & RF instrument calibration in the ATE equipment. Offered wage: $72,030 to $110,300. Apply at www.jobpostingtoday.com Ref#67680.

Data Engineer (Insights & Analytics) sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica office at least 80% of time (average 4 days/wk). Dvlp data pipelines adhering w/ privacy & governance principles. MS or for. eq. + 3 yrs exp OR BS or for. eq. + 5 yrs exp req. Base salary: $165,000-$230,000/yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #DE-0323-WX. EOE.

Design Engineer, Snap Lab (4) sought by Snap Inc. in Santa Monica, CA. *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica office at least 80% of time (average 4 days/wk). Dsg, dvlp & modify AR s/ware features & sys. BS or for. eq. + 4 yrs exp req. Base salary: $165,000-$230,000/yr. Position eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Position eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #DESL4-0223-LT. EOE.

Dev/Ops Engineer (Sofrware Egr) for Software Co. F/T. $88,400/year. Santa Ana, Ca, Working with clients to understand business issues & problems & challenges. Propose expert complex solutions to all internal issues, computer issues, computer software issues, programming issues etc. Manage multiple in-flight projects that all have different timelines, timetables & issues as well as the utilization of different technologies, issues & problem. Send resume to Rencata at info@rencata.com

DevOps Engineer. As member of DevOps engineering team, work to pioneer data transformation technology. Main Req. Bach in Comp. Engineer., Comp. Sci., or closely rel. & 2 yrs exp in job or 2 yrs exp in Software dev., systems, &/or DevOps engineering or rel occup. Alt. Req. Masters in Comp. Engineer., Comp. Sci., or rel. field. Main & Alt. Spec. Req. Background w/ Linux sys. Background w/ BASH scripting. Background w/ Python. Background w/ software build processes using 1 of the following: JavaScript, Java, or C++. Background w/ Hadoop. Background w/ 1 of the following: Azure, AWS, or Google Cloud Platform. Background w/ CI/CD using 1 of the following: Jenkins, TravisCI, or CircleCI. Background w/ 1 of the following: Maven, Make, or Gradle. Understanding of comp. networking fundamentals, incl. TCP/IP, DNS, DHCP, IP addressing, subnetting, routing concepts, & firewall admin. Understanding of operating sys. fundamentals, incl. process mgmt, memory mgmt, disk access & file sys., & package mgmt. Jobsite: Irvine, CA. Wage range: $102,544/yr - $159,600/yr. Mail your resume indicating job title to Alteryx, Inc. Attn: HRTR(DevOps Engineer), 17200 Laguna Canyon Rd, Irvine, CA 92618.

TeleSign Corp. is seeking a Principal SW Dev't Engr. at Test to optimize workflows & improve cadence & quality of SW releases. REQS: Bachelor's in Comp. Sci., Comp. Engr, or rel, +5 yrs. exp. in job offered, or as SW engr./developer, support escalation engr., programmer analyst, or rel. Exp./knowledge must include sw dev't exp. with a focus in testing & automation & automation testing knowledge of APIs. Office: Marina Del Rey, CA. May work remotely in these U.S. states – AZ, CA, CO, DC, FL, GE, IL, MD, MI, MN, NC, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OK, OR, PA, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA & WI. $155K -$210K. Email resume to: hr@telesign.com. Principals only. EOE.

RF Engineer sought by RadiaBeam Technologies in Santa Monica, CA. Master's or equiv in Electrical Eng, Physics, Eng Physics or rel field, plus 1 yr exp. $101,254/yr. Send resume to email: jobs@radiabeam.com

ENGINEERING
Structural Engineer Design & computer analysis of difficult structures w/RISA-2D & AutoCAD, ETC
Long Beach, CA 562-735-4955 ext:0

Los Angeles Times

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Employment

Engineer III sought by Applied Manufacturing, LLC Rancho Santa Margarita CA to develop and implement design/process improvements and monitor effectiveness of manufacturing processes; create manufacturing documentation, prototype generation, and data analysis. Salary Range: $89,648 - $110,000/year Req.: BS + 3 yr. exp. Apply: https://careers.appliedmedical.com/north-america/jobs/9553?lang=en-us

ENGINEERING
BYD Coach and Bus LLC. has an opening in Lancaster, CA for Mechanical Engineer to evaluate and design the body structure for the commercial vehicle that includes transit bus, school bus, and truck. The wage range for this position is $89,378 to $95,000. Ref job code C# 6300965 & mail resume to: BYD Coach & Bus LLC. Attn: HR, 1800 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90015.

ENGINEERING
BYD Coach and Bus, LLC has an opening in Lancaster, CA for Senior System Analyst to design, develop and maintain the company's ERP system solutions for all business departments such as supplying chain, project management, sales, production, and accounting. 20% domestic travel required. Wage range: $73,757 - $85,300 per year. Ref job code C#6543950 & mail resume to: BYD Coach and Bus, LLC, Attn: HR, 1800 S Figueroa St, Los Angeles, CA 90015.

Codazen Inc. seeks a Full-Stack Engineer in Irvine, CA. Duties: Build high-performance, web-based applications with React and PHP; Implement HTML layouts in React/JSX based on wireframes; Implement CSS to style components based on style guide and design comps; Build secure, scalable APIs using GraphQL; Participate in design of database models; Build application features in a fast-paced environment; and Provide code reviews for fellow React and PHP developers. Position requires a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science or related field and three years of professional experience as a software or full-stack engineer, and one year of experience building web-based software or enterprise-level web sites. Salary $120k - $150k/yr. Please apply at www.codazen/careers

Manager, Software Engineering (Science 37, Inc; Culver City, CA): Plan, manage, and monitor engineering functions. Telecommuting from anywhere within the U.S. allowed. 5% domestic travel. Salary: $170,000 - $205,000 per year. Send resume to: Katie Norris, Science 37, Inc., 600 Corporate Pointe #320, Culver City, CA, 90230.

Materials Engineer sought by Applied Medical Resources Corporation in Rancho Santa Margarita, CA to understand and follow Applied Manufacturing Quality Systems (QS) per training. Req.: BS + 2 yr. exp. Salary range: $87,734 - $92,000/year. How to Apply: Qualified applicants please send resume to: https://careers.appliedmedical.com/north-america/jobs/9546?lang=en-us

Mechanical Engineer sought by Applied Manufacturing, LLC in Rancho Santa Margarita, CA to perform basic to intermediate hands-on troubleshooting of machining. Req.: MS + 3 yr. exp. Salary Range: $108,534-$120,000 Apply: https://careers.appliedmedical.com/north-america/jobs/9536?lang=en-us

Computer/IT: HULU, LLC - Software Engineer II - Santa Monica, CA - Build & maintain pltfrm to run, admin & monitor apps. Build next-gen pltfrm for devs. Identify eval, deploy tls & Tech. Troubleshoot sys probs and manage a python based deployment pltfrm. REQ: Bchlrs deg or frgn equiv in Comp Sci or rel fld + 2 yrs exp in Comp Sci occup'n. Alt reqs: Masters deg or frgn equiv in Comp Sci or rel fld + 1 yr exp in a Comp Sci occup'n. Email CV to Hulu, LLC, Corp.GM.Recruitment.DisneyStreaming@disney.com Please ref code: SECL

Structural Engineer (Los Angeles, CA) Assist in design of structures. Prepare structural system models. Non-linear analysis of structures. Construction Documents. Calculation reports. Site visit. Master's degree in CE or SE. Building codes. Seismic design including steel & concrete. Performance-Based Design. Passed NCEES FE Civil exam. Resume and cover letter to Nous Engineering, Inc., 600 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 760, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

Employment

Senior Application Engineer. Work w/ developers & existing tech. supp. staff teams, etc. Main Req. Masters in Comp. Sci., Comp. Engineer., Software Engineer., or closely rel. & 2 yrs exp in job or Cust-facing troubleshooting & Prod. Supp., or rel occup. Alt. Req. Bach. in Comp. Sci., Comp. Engineer., Software Engineer., or closely rel. & 5 yrs exp in job or Cust-facing troubleshooting & Prod. Supp., or rel occup. Main & Alt. Spec. Req. Exp. above must incl. 2 yrs w/ DBMS & SQL. Exp above must incl. 2 yrs w/ troubleshooting & admin. within 1 of the following Linux environs: Ubuntu, RedHat, or CentOS. Exp. above must incl. 2 yrs w/ 1 of the following scripting languages: Python, BASH, or Linux Shell Scripting. Background w/ Spark, EMR, or DataFlow. Background w/ Hadoop. Background w/ 1 of the following: Azure, AWS, or Google Cloud Platform. Jobsite: Irvine, CA. Wage range: $118,123/yr - $164,700/yr. Mail resume indicating job title to Alteryx, Inc. Attn: HRTR (Sr. Application Engineer), 17200 Laguna Canyon Rd, Irvine, CA 92618.

Senior Electrical Engineer sought by Operation Technology, Inc. (dba ETAP) in Irvine, CA: Execute established test plans and protocols for assigned software features. Req: MS+2. May work from home. $100,256-$130k/year. Apply by email to claudia.restrepo@etap.com. Must ref. job code CA1025.

Tesla, Inc. has the following position available at their facility in Hawthorne, CA: Senior Mechanical Design Engineer. DD-051191. (min/max: $128,011/yr. - $193,800/yr.) Pay offered may vary depending on multiple individualized factors, including market location, job-related knowledge, skills, and experience. The total compensation package for this position may also include other elements dependent on the position offered. Details of participation in these benefit plans will be provided if an employee receives an offer of employment. Successful completion of reference and background checks is required. Tesla is committed to a policy of equal employment opportunity. We recruit, employ, train, compensate, and promote without regard to race, color, age, sex, ancestry, marital status, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, present or past history of mental disability, genetic information or any other classification protected by state or federal law. Interested candidates may send resume to apply@tesla.com and must reference Job Title and Reference #.

Senior QA Engineer sought by Skyworks Solutions, Inc., Newbury Park, CA. Quality system development, deployment and maintenance. Salary range: $83,408 - $ 146,300 / year. Email resumes to: Angela.Ho@skyworksinc.com. Must Ref: Job code: CA0422VP

Senior R&D Engineer for Covidien LP (a Medtronic company), Irvine, CA. Req. Master's in Mechanical, Industrial, Biomedical or Electronics Engineering & 2 yrs exp. as R&D Engineer, Manufacturing Engineer, or related in R&D engr. or Manufacturing engr. Req. min. 2 yrs exp. with each: Product Design, Process Dev. & Mfg & Qlty control of Class II & Class III medical devices; FDA QSR, CFR 820, ISO13485, ISO14971 & EU Medical Device Directive; Risk analysis activities incl. health hazard assessment, Fault Tree Analysis, Process Failure Mode Control Analysis, Design Failure Mode Control Analysis & CAPA; Analyzing Post-market surveillance, investigate & respond to complaints; Measurement System Analysis, Design of Experiments & Statistical Process Control, Process Capability and Sampling Techniques; Development of Installation Qualification, Operation Qualification, Performance Qualification, Gage R&R and Test Method validations; & Good Manufacturing Practices & Good Documentation Practices. To apply, visit https://jobs.medtronic.com/, select Req. #230002CE. No agencies or phone calls please. Medtronic/Covidien is an equal opportunity employer committed to cultural diversity in the workplace. All individuals are encouraged to apply.

Snr Staff Rel. Eng open'g to perfrm test'g on automtd test eq'mnt, bench charact, failure anlysis & debug hrdwre issues. Need Mast's in engineering or closely relat'd field + 2 yrs exper w/ power electrncs; semiconductor devices/physcs; EMI model'g; rel. data anlysis; LabView; power circuits; protype tstg/debug; elec scopes & pwr meters; lab wrk + hnds-on test'g elec circuits/devices. Travel not req'd. No telecommuting. Must work 100% each wk in Torrance, CA office & live in same/surrounding area. Salary $150K–200K annually. Resumes to Navitas Semiconductor @ HR.USA@navitassemi.com. May also apply @ https://navitassemi.com/navitas-careers/.

CSS Payroll Co, L.P. (Los Angeles, CA) seeks Sr. Software Engineer (Back-End) to collab w/ Prdct Mngrs, Dsgnrs, & Frontend Engnrs to cncptlze & dvlp new sftwre features for growng custmr base. Reqs MS in CompSci, Comp Engg or rltd fld +3yrs exp in pos offrd or sftwre dvpmt or sftwre engg pos or Bach in CompSci, Comp Engg or rltd fld +5yrs prgrssv post-Bach exp in pos offrd or sftwre dvpmt or sftwre engg pos. All reqd exp mustve incld dvlpng & opratng IT sys usng commn languages incl C++, C#, Go, Java, or Pythn; utlzng cloud srvces incl AWS, Azure or GCP; wrkng w/ distrbutd sys, microsrvces IT wrkflws, big data, query optmzatn tchnqs, storage, netwrkng & makng tchncl archtctr decisns; wrkng thu full SDLC from dsgn & implmntn to testng & dploymt; wrkng w/ data structres, algrthms, threadng, & info retrievl. Telecommutng permttd from any US locatn. Mult pos open. Salary: $210,000-$275,000/yr. Email res to catarino.ruiz@cloudkitchens.com.

Employment

Senior Reliability/FA Engineer sought by Skyworks Solutions, Inc., Newbury Park, CA: Responsible for product qualification of all the products Skyworks' build. Salary range: $111,384 - $ 146,300 / year. Email resumes to: Angela.Ho@skyworksinc.com. Must Ref: Job code: CA1222MS

Software Engineers (Levels 3 to 5) - mult openings - sought by Snap Inc. in Santa Monica, CA. *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members in the Santa Monica, CA office at least 80% of the time (average 4 days/wk). Dsg, dvlp & modify s/ware apps & systems. SWE3: B.S or for. eq. + 2 yrs exp OR M.S. or for. eq. Base salary: $125,000-$180,000/yr. Job Code #SWE3-SM-0123; SWE4: B.S. or for. eq. + 5 yrs exp. OR M.S. or for. eq. + 3 yrs exp. Base salary: $155,000-$220,000/yr. Job Code #SWE4-SM-0123; SWE5: B.S. or for. eq. + 7 yrs exp. OR M.S. or for. eq. + 5 yrs exp. Base salary: $195,000-$280,000/yr. Job Code #SWE5-SM-0123. Position eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Position eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref applicable Job Code when applying. EOE.

Fashion Designer: Prepare rough sketch and detailed drawings of women's apparel or accessories. Provide specifications such as color schemes, construction, material types, etc. Annual Salary: $53,082. BA in Fashion Design req'd. Send Resume to Gilli, Inc. 2939 Bandini Blvd. Vernon, CA 90058.

Fashion Designer. Mail resume to GNS Fashion, Inc., 778 E. 12th St., Unit 2, Los Angeles, CA 90021-2196.

Fashion Designer (LA, CA) Study new trends and design stylish apparel. Bachelor's in fashion design related. $53082/yr. Resume to: K TOO, 1635 E 22nd St, LA, CA 90011

FASHION Fashion Designer Associate Degree in Fashion Design or related req'd
Resume to Ryan Choi
D. ARK Apparel, INC
810 E. Pico Blvd. Suite 322
Los Angeles, CA. 90021

Fashion Designer: Req'd AA degree in Fashion Design, Fashion Merchandise or related. Mail Resume: JNP Fashion, Inc. 1015 S Crocker St Ste Q15, LA, CA 90021

Assurance Advisor (Financial Services Office) (Manager) (Multiple Positions), Ernst & Young U.S. LLP, Los Angeles, CA. Provide audit services, demonstrating to clients that there is real value in the audit process, above and beyond the regulatory mandate. Requires domestic travel up to 30% in order to serve client needs. Employer will accept any suitable combination of education, training, or experience. $106,975 per year. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply online, go to: ey.com/en_us/careers and click on "Careers - Job Search", then "Search Jobs" (Job # - 1408094).

Financial Advisor (San Marino, CA) Help clients select the appropriate fin'l insurance & investment products which meet their personal needs & fin'l goals. Bach's deg in finance;2 yrs' work exp assessing & analyzing the performance of investment portfolios; College coursework in risk mgmt & investment & portfolio mgmt; Proficient in Microsoft Office. Send resume to wendylin@anbangins.com or Anbang Insurance Center. c/o Qiuyan Fan, Officer, 2390 Huntington Dr., San Marino, CA 91108.

Mid-Corporates Relationship Manager for Citibank, N.A. (Irvine, CA) Work with international treasury & cash management solutions, redit finance products, investment banking products, industry Credit Policies & Credit Parameters. REQS: Masters degree or frgn equiv in Bus Admin, Financ, Econ, or rld fld & 5 yrs of exp as a Relatnshp Mgr, Prodct Mgr, Commercl Subsidiaries Grp Head, Loan Structurg Desk Mgr, Credit & Portfolio Analyst, or rld posn workg w/in glbl financl srvcs indstry. Altrntvly, employr will accept Bachelors degree or frgn equiv in statd flds & 7 yrs of specifd progressv, post-baccalaureate exp. Full span of exp must incld: Int'l treasury & cash mgmt solutns; Workg w/ credit financ prdcts, investmnt bankng prdcts, industry Credit Policies & Credit Parameters; Workg w/ credit includg glbl transactns & Early Warng Detectn skills; Frgn Exchng solutns for currencies tradg & hedging soluts to cover Interst Rate, FX & Commodites risks; Workg w/ Mexican & LATAM local policies & procdures incldg cross-bordr business ops, credit & business practices, & financng instrumnts; Apply knowldg of Debt Rating Models & Returns on Risk Capital Models; Relatnshp mgmt w/ institutnl clients, w/in consumr prdcts & retail industries; & Salesforce, Relpro & LinkedIn Sales Navigator. 25% int'l & domstc travel reqd. Salary range: $175,000.00 to $175,000.00/yr; 40 hrs/wk. Qualified applicants submit resumes referencing job code JC/MCRM/JMBC at https://jobs.citi.com/ or to Citigroup Recruiting Dept., 3800 Citigroup Center Drive, Tampa, FL 33610. Citigroup is an EOE Employer. Proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 required prior to commencing employment.

Personal Financial Advisor w/ M.S. in finance or rltd. fields wanted by insurance co. 6 mos. exp. in finance rltd. occups. req'd. Advise clients on fin'l. planning, risk & invest. mgmt., assess clients' fin'l. conditions, prep. presentations, recomm. insurance & fin'l. prods., dvlp. client relationships, identify mkt. trends, rsrch. on fin'l. mkts. Salary: $85,500/yr. Jobsite: Arcadia, CA. Send resume to: The Nee Agency, 55 E Huntington Dr, Ste 219, Arcadia, CA 91006.

You're connected.
Los Angeles Times

Employment

Thornton Tomasetti, Inc. seeks VP, Forensics in Los Angeles, CA to oversee bus. dvlpmnt activities. Oversee prep of RFQs (Request for Qualifications). Research past proposals & historical/industry data to determine project costs & dvlp proposals. Req'mnts: Master's or foreign equiv in Civil Eng'g, Earthquake Eng'g, Eng'g Seismology or rel. & 5 yrs of exp in job offered or rel. occupation: performing linear & nonlinear modeling of structures utilizing comm'l softw incl SAP & Etabs; performing linear finite-element (FE) modeling using comm'l softw; supporting post-loss srvcs incl eval of damaged buildings & structures, plan remediation, cause & origin analyses, eng'g assessments for reinstatement of damaged buildings, building code upgrades analyses, & specialized claims analysis; dsgn'g temp stabilization systs, incl repair, & strengthening of unstable structures; performing forensic investigations, incl field investigation for data collection, preservation & documentation of forensic evidence, & analysis. In alternative, employer will accept Bachelor's in above-listed fields & 7 yrs of progressively responsible exp in above-listed skills. 35 % trvl req'd. Offered salary is between $140,000-$170,000/yr. 40 hrs/wk. Pls submit resumes to HR, Thornton Tomasetti, Inc. 120 Broadway, NY, NY 10271 & indicate job code AC022823AD.

Food Servers: Place food servings; Clean dishes, kitchen & utensils. Wage $15.5/hr. Mail resume to MDM Arisu Inc, 7814 Orangethorpe Ave #106, Buena Park, CA 90620.

Food Service Workers: Prepare/serve food & beverage; clean service areas. Wage_$18/hour. Mail Resume to: MJK World Inc, 3613 W 6th St Suite B, Los Angeles, CA 90020 (Job Site)

IT Specialist: Answer user inquiries re: use of hardware & software. Troubleshoot the software & hardware for users. Draft user support manuals explaining the use of software & equip. Set up computer equip. Install proper OS & req-ed software. Modify commercial software for internal use. Oversee daily performance of computer sys. Develop workflows & automation. Travel will not be req-ed. 18-mo. exp. req-d. Mail CV: Davit Harutyunyan, Gabela, Inc., 2697 Lavery Ct, Unit 18, Newbury Park, CA 91320 (job site & interv. loc.)

Mult IT jobs. All req. travel/reloc & MS/equiv &:
(JC33) Sr. Bus. Technlogy Anlyst- 2 yrs IT exp incl. MS Projct, JIRA, Confluenc, Agil Scrum, Watrfall, Harvst, Float, MS Visio, MS SQL Srvr, AWS, Azur, MS SharPoint, Activ Dirctory, HR systs, & Test Rail. $115,357.00 per year
(JC34) Sr. Systs Anlyst – coursework in Informtion Retrieval, Intellignt Data Anlysis, IT Infrastructur Sustainability, Adv. Storage Technolgies, Adv. Systs Admin., Principles of Cybrsecurity, & Technolgies for Social Netwrking. $116,709.00 per year
(JC35) Sr. Bus. Technlogy Anlyst – 2 yrs exp incl. Ping Federtion, OKTA, ADFS, Apach Web Srvr, Sybas, MySQL DB, LDAP/Activ Directry, SAML, JSON, PowrShell Scrpting, Linux/Unix, Sharepoint, & Agile/Waterfall Methodology. $115,357.00 per year
Send résumé w/ JC# to Saviynt, Inc., 1301 E. El Segundo Blvd, Ste D, El Segundo, CA 90245

Inventory Planning Program Manager: Medtronic, Inc., Northridge, CA. Req. MBA or Master's in Industrial, Biomedical or Mechanical Engr. & 3 yrs exp. as a supply chain manager or related occupation in supply chain mgnt. Req. 3 yrs exp. w/ each: Program & change mgmt w/ Integrated Business Planning Process & inventory annual operating plan; Kaizen, Lean Sigma, Six Sigma & DMAIC concepts utilizing MiniTab; ERP software packages to include Purchasing, Material Management, Production management, Demand planning & PLM modules in APO Oracle databases, Oracle R12/11i/ASCP, Power BI & Business Objects; Product line responsibilities as a Planner, Buyer, Master scheduler or a Sourcing Manager; Collaborative technology platforms to include Sharepoint, & Visio; Analyzing data from supply chain mgmt systems for scenario planning, Phase in Phase out planning, Inventory planning, Slow Obsolete Gains Loses mitigation; & Developing Total Cost of Ownership & Net Present Value models & negotiation plans linked to P&L & Balance Sheet. Must possess Six Sigma Green Belt certification. To apply, visit https://jobs.medtronic.com/, select Req. #230002OT. No agencies or phone calls please. Medtronic is an equal opportunity employer committed to cultural diversity in the workplace. All individuals are encouraged to apply.

Landscape Designers. SWA Group, Los Angeles. BLA. Knowledge of 3D modeling. $60K. Email: hr@swagroup.com for Job #ZZ7

Consultant: Master of Law or Jurisprudence req'd. 40 hrs/wk. Pay: $70,000/yr. Mail/email resume: Law Offices of Martinian & Assoc - 2801 Cahuenga Blvd W, Los Angeles, CA 90068. MARTLAWFIRM@GMAIL.COM

9to5 Seating LLC is seeking a Logistics Manager in Hawthorne. Req: Bachelor's in Logistics and Supply Chain Management. $107,806.00/year. Email resume to careers@9to5seaing.com

Building Maintenance Staff: Complete building maintenance requests. 2yr exp. req. Mail resume to YBM Properties, Inc. 500 N. Larchmont Blvd. LA, CA 90004.

Manager, CRM Technology sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica office at least 80% of time (average 4 days/wk). Architecture, dsgn & ops of critical cloud-based bus apps. BS or for. eq. + 6 yrs exp OR MS or for. eq. + 4 yrs exp req. Base salary: $230,000-$335,000/yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #MCRM-0223-SB. EOE.

Employment

Pacific Ironclad LLC is hiring for the following in Cerritos, CA and various unanticipated locations throughout the USA: Assistant Project Manager (Est. Salary Range $130,000/yr-$145,000/yr): Rvw & priortze prjcts thru each phase of cnstrctn from plnning thru user group mve-in. Telecomm Permitted. Travl Reqrd 10%. To apply, email resume & cover letter to jennifer.chang@paciironclad.com and reference job title. EOE. Principals only.

Anthos Management, L.P. seeks in Santa Monica, CA: Business Development Vice President w/ Bachelor's or foreign equiv in Bus. Admin or Finance plus 5 yrs of exp as an Investment Associate or sub. sim. pos. 20% US & int'l travel per yr req. All costs paid by employer. Pay Scale: $280,000 to $300,000/yr. Send resume to dknight@anthoscapital.com (Ref. no. L5252).

Manager, People & Organization (Mult Pos), PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Los Angeles, CA. Assist orgnizations with resetting their talnt strategs & delivring bus reslts thru their employees. Req Bach's deg or foreign equiv in Acct, Econ, Bus Admin, Intrnational Bus, Mgmt or rel + 5 yrs post-bach's progrssv rel work exp; OR a Master's deg or foreign equiv in Acct, Econ, Bus Admin, Intrnational Bus, Mgmt or rel + 3 yrs rel work exp. 80% telecommtng permitted. Mst be able to commute to designated local office. Trvl up to 20% req. Salary: $183,040 - $183,040/yr.
Apply by email at US_PwC_Career_Recruitment@pwc.com, referencing Job Code CA3570.

Marketing Strategist and Product Coordinator at Point Bar Review LLC in Alhambra, CA. DUTIES: Op DRMx to edit, comprs, & encrpt vid for UI to Cloudfare net; Comm w/ out agency for vid prod, sched, & T/S; Use Xiumi edit & H5 online prod tool to create DL & media temp; Imp Uookk CRM tool; Mge Wechat backend; etc. REQS: Master's in Int Mkt, Comm, or closely rel field; 2 yrs of dem exp in mkt res, mkt strtg dev, mkt camp imp, large evnts plng & trade shows mgmt. For a full desc. & req.s, go to https://pointbarreview.blogspot.com/p/job.html. To be considered, send cover ltr & res to Angela Li (info@pointbarreview.com). EOE.

Marketing Specialist: Develop and implement marketing programs including social media marketing campaigns, conduct market research. Salary $72,000/year. Mail resumes to Hana BAE, Tiya Inc., 6080 Center Dr., #710, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Search Marketing Strategist Design marketing lifecycle, KPI using mathematical models, statistical techniques. integrations with external systems. Skills of CSS, HTML + MBA info. tech management or marketing related field Req. Mail to Job Loc: Kingway Inc., 12025 Jersey Ct, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 9173O.

Metal Fabricator to Shaping, welding, & fabricating metal structures and components as it pertains to rare, antique, and one-of-kind vehicles. 12 mos of experience as Metal Fabricator, Welder, or related occupation req'd. Mon-fri 40hrs/wk. Mail resume to HOLLYWOOD HOT RODS, INC. 2617 N SAN FERNANDO BLVD, BURBANK, CA,91504

Medical Coordinator: HS diploma req., $33,696/yr, F/T, Rsme to Young S. Park, Sierra Hospice Care, Inc., 222 N. Harvard Blvd, LA, CA 90004

Church Music Director- Req. BS/BA in Music Wage $37,024/YR Mail Resume: LA Open Door Presbyterian Church 1218 S. Fairfax Ave LA, CA 90019

Louise Cosand in Pasadena, CA seeks Nanny w/HS diploma or foreign equiv. Resumes to L. Cosand at lcosand@gmail.com

Network and Computer Systems Administrator for 8 Net, Inc. Master of Computer Science or Info Tech. Salary: 79,206/Year-$104,334/Year. Rsm to H.R. at 18965 San Jose Avenue, City of Industry, CA 91748

Order Clerk: f/t; high school diploma or equiv.; Resume: K & H PURE ENERGY USA, INC. @ 1150 N. Redgum St. Anaheim, CA 92806

Mobile/Online Game dev. in El Segundo seeks VP of Op: BA or BS in Mktg, Bus Admin, Engr, Comms or similar plus 2 yr exp as Mktg mgr, contents producer (mgr, leader or sr level), PR mgr or similarly related req'd. Mobile/online game mktg or content producing exp req'd. Must be bilingual in English and Korean. Salary btw $186K-$270K/yr. CV to Com2Us at 999 N Pacific Coast Hwy #450, El Segundo, CA 90245 or Careers@com2us.com

Planning Specialist sought by Skyworks Solutions, Inc., Irvine, CA: Work from engg plans & production specs to establish production schedules. Salary range: $106,071-$146,300 /yr. Email resumes to: Angela.Ho@skyworksinc.com. Must Ref: CA0622OC.

Quality Engineer (4) sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Remote Work Permitted. Snap's remote team members are expected to travel for mandatory in-person gatherings & to fulfill bus. needs, approx. 4-6 times/yr. Quality Eng. for internal & external product releases. BS or for. eq. + 5 yrs exp OR MS or for. eq. + 3 yrs exp req. Base salary: $145,000-210,000/yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #QE4-0323-KK. EOE.

Receptionist: Answer calls, schedule patient appts and assist w/patient check-ins. No exp. needed. Mail resume to GLOBODENTAL, 2825 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 310, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

Staff Research Associate I sought by The Lundquist Institute in Torrance, CA. Ph.D. or M.D. or equiv plus 1 yr of rel exp. $50,000/year. Apply: Jasmine Christian, HR Manager, The Lundquist Institute, 1124 West Carson Street, Torrance, CA 90502, or email jasmine.christian@lundquist.org.

Employment

Research Manager, PSB Insights LLC, Whittier, CA. Spprt the dvlpmnt of new rsrch prdcts, methodologies, & workflows. Req. Bach's deg or foreign equiv deg in Marketing, Comm or rel deg + 3 yrs exp as an analyst or senior analyst in a mrktng consltng & mrkt rsrch team. Salary $87,500/yr. Please apply by emailing resume to careers@psbinsights.com referencing job code CA0027.

Sr. Research and Development Engineer for Medtronic, Inc. at its facility in Northridge, CA. Responsible for engineering prototyping, development builds, and engineering study interpretations of insulin pumps, glucose sensors, infusion sets, reservoirs and therapy aids that support our patients in managing their diabetes. Requires a Master's degree in Mechanical, Chemical or Biomedical Engineering or related engineering field. Experience must include two (2) years of experience in R&D Engineering or Design Engineering and two (2) years of post-bachelor's progressive experience in all of the following: Draft testing protocols, and generate technical reports, perform data analysis. Polymer processing and mold design to include low and high-volume Injection Molding, Insert Molding and Multi-Shot Molding. Statistical analysis including process capability, process control and DOE (Design of Experiments). Design, development, manufacturing and testing of both mechanical (injection molded plastics, thermoforming, sheet metal, RTV Silicon Molding, aluminum casting and related fixtures) and electro-mechanical devices and accessories, including concepts prototyping and product tool development. Apply Design for Manufacturing Assembly (DFMA) to design and manufacture molds and in-process assembly fixtures. Utilize CAD software (Solidworks or equivalent) to ideate, iterate and communicate design intent with both drawings and 3D Solid models. Design evaluation and verification for functionality of product design. Introducing and developing new process and equipment and implementing continuous improvement via structured methods (5S, Kanban systems and Kaizen events). Travel required with 25% frequency to U.S. vendor sites for product development. Apply at https://jobs.medtronic.com, Req.2300029S. Medtronic is an equal opportunity employer committed to cultural diversity in the workplace. All individuals are encouraged to apply.

Restaurant Manager: oversee restaurant management; 1 year of post-secondary education; Moon BBQ 16334 S. Western Ave., Gardena, CA 90247

Sales and Marketing Representative needed: Send res to Kaplan Industrial Car Wash Supplies, Inc., 13875 Mica St., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670. Job loc is Santa Fe Springs, CA. Rate of Pay: $37,877/yr

Sales Assistant: Provide clerical support to orders received by sales reps. Apply by mail only Envisco Co., 1661 N. Raymond Ave. #145, Anaheim, CA 92801, attn. CEO

Sales Assistant: Provide clerical support to orders received by sales reps. Apply by mail only Avectoi, Inc., 726 E. 12th St., #104, Los Angeles, CA 90021, attn. CEO

SALES MANAGER:
Req Any Bachelor's degree, Wage $66,000/Year Mail resume: FAR EAST METALS, INC. 531 E CARSON ST. #D CARSON, CA 90745

CSS Payroll Co, L.P. (Los Angeles, CA) seeks Applied Machine Learning Scientist to estmate & forecst food-dlvry supply & demnd, invstgate & formlate ML apprches to addrss biz problms rltd to optmzng biz ops & maxmzng sales rvnues. Reqs MS in Econ or Engg (Comp or Electrcl) +2yrs exp in pos offrd or Data Scntist pos. All reqd exp mustve incld estmatng restaurnt succss w/ exploratry data anlys writng scholrly white paprs & rprts docmntg scientfc findngs rltd to new biz insghts; provdng useful chrts & figures rltd to food dlvry biz & restaurnt succss; writng efficnt SQL queries in Trino in suppt of rsrch & data anlys & statstcl modlng; & effctvly commncatng updates & tchncl rsults to data sci team, cross-func'l teams, & non-tchncl decisn makrs. Telecommtng permttd from any US locatn. Salary $136,500/yr. Email res to catarino.ruiz@cloudkitchens.com

Lead Data Scientist for The Boston Consulting Group in Los Angeles, CA to lead a team of data scientists and engineers to design and build analytics-based methodologies, solutions, and products that deliver value to BCG's clients. Req. Master's degree or foreign equiv. in Analytics, Statistics, Mathematics, Computer/Data Science, Engineering, Business, Economics, Marketing, or a related field & 4 years of exp. in developing advanced data analytics solutions in an enterprise environment; or a doctorate degree & 2 years of exp. Up to 80% travel. Multiple positions available. Resume to LosLDS@bcg.com. Salary: $225,400 - $246,600.

SECURITY

SECURITY

$15-$18.50 hr no exp nec. will train, pt/ft all 3 shifts in LA , OC. 8a-6p 7 days. Montebello 323-889-1922

Security Delivery Manager (Accenture LLP; Los Angeles, CA): Design, build, and deploy application security technologies and large-scale automation technologies to modern DevOps environments to protect enterprise systems, applications, data, assets, and people for Accenture and clients as Lead/SME. Must have willingness and ability to travel domestically approximately 70% of the time to meet client needs. Multiple Positions Available. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply, go to: www.accenture.com/us-en/careers (Job# R00146071). Pursuant to the California Transparency Bill, the offered wage for this role is $178,900.00 per year. Equal Opportunity Employer – Minorities/Women/Vets/Disabled.

Employment

Multiple Positions; Barista: create and serve beverages; CGI Foods-Equitable Plaza, Inc. 3435 Wilshire Blvd. #141 Los Angeles, CA 90010

Backend Software Engineer (User Profile) sought by Snap Inc. in Santa Monica, CA. *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in the Santa Monica, CA office at least 80% of the time (average 4 days/wk). Dsg & implmt next gen of Snap's multi-cloud architecture. B.S. or for. eq. + 4 yrs exp req. Base salary: $195,000-$280,000/yr. Position eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Position eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #BSWE-0123-AB. EOE.

Principal Software Developer needed by iHerb in Pasadena, CA. Dsgn, dvlp, enhance & spprt s/w, apps, & sys; code & debug s/w apps; dsgn, implmnt & deploy machine learning svcs; dsgn & implmnt data pipelines; prfrm s/w anlss & code anlss; requirement anlss; code review; prfrm s/w modeling & tstng; write tech dsgn specs; dsgn, implmnt & deploy microservices using python, ASP.NET & kubernetes. Req. BS in CS, S/w engg, or rltd; 4 yrs of exp as a S/w Engineer or rltd; Knowl of machine learning, cloud computing & data pipelines; Exp of Python, Microsft .NET platform, C#, ASP.NET, Kubernetes, GCP & AWS dvlpmt. Salary $160,000 - $240,000/yr. Send resume to christopher.brooks@iherb.com.

Sr. Software Development Engineer in Test. Work closely w/ Prod. Mgmt., Devel., UX Design & Ops within agile process to iteratively test & ensure quality during devel. of new features. Main Req. Bach. in Comp. Sci., Comp. Engineer., or closely rel. & 5 yrs exp in job or testing &/or devel. web apps or rel occup. Alt. Req. Masters in Comp. Sci., Comp. Engineer., or closely rel. & 2 yrs exp in job or testing &/or devel. web apps or rel occup. Main & Alt. Spec. Req. Exp. above must incl. 1 yr w/ Linux Sys. Exp. above must incl. 1 yr w/ Jenkins & Git for build & continuous integration/continuous deployment pipeline. Exp. above must incl. 1 yr w/ SQL, incl. schema design, backup & restore. Exp. above must incl. 1 yr w/ object-oriented program., incl. 1 of the following: Python, Java, or JavaScript. Exp. above must incl. 1 yr w/ 1 of the following cloud platforms: Azure, AWS, or Google Cloud Platform. Exp. above must incl. 2 yrs using Selenium or Sahi for test automation of web app. Exp. above must incl. 2 yrs writing test plans, test cases, & bug reports. Exp. above must incl. 2 yrs w/ Software Devel. Lifecycle & Agile methodology. Any suitable combo of educ, training &/or exp is acceptable. Jobsite: Irvine, CA. Wage range: $118,123/yr - $220,200/yr. Mail resume indicating job title to Alteryx, Inc. Attn: HRTR(Sr. Software Development Engineer in Test), 17200 Laguna Canyon Rd, Irvine, CA 92618

Senior Software Engineer sought by Acorns Grow Inc. in Irvine, CA (Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the US) Lead key web service dvlpmnt w/ focus on availability, latency, & capacity. $196,900-$229,900/yr. Email resumes to Tosin Olamigoke: perm-recruitment@acorns.com. Must reference job code NY0422KP.

Motor Trend Group, LLC (a subsidiary of Discovery Communications, LLC) seeks a Software Development Engineer III in El Segundo, CA to develop the next generation of Motor Trend Group's software platforms for Motortrend.com and key brands. Remote Work Permitted. Salary: $147,410-$225,000 per year. Send resume to Tyler Williams, Discovery Communications, 9721 Sherrill Blvd, Knoxville, TN 37932

Ericsson Inc. has multiple openings in Los Angeles, CA for Software Engineer positions to lead a software development team. Apply here: t.eric.sn/3XKPJc6

CAYS, Inc. in El Segundo, CA seeks A) Software Developer(s) (Informatica) to participate in full sw dvlpmnt life cycle f/ reqmnts thru production release. Wage: $124,987/yr.; B) Full Stack Developer Lead(s) to coord., lead & ovrsee Full Stack Team thru full sw dvlpmnt life cycle f/ reqmnts thru production release. Wage: $124,987/yr. Post'ns A & B proj-based @ unanticipated sites w/in U.S. Relo may be req'd @ proj. end. WFH bnft avail depending on proj reqmnts. Mult. Openings. Send resumes to: hr@cayscorp.com.

KPMG LLP, Senior Associate, Tax (Mult. Pos.), Los Angeles, CA. Provide tax consulting svcs to corporate & partnership clnts, incl. Federal & State R&D credits under I.R.C. § 41, R&D capitalization & deduction under I.R.C. §174, Employee Retention Credit, Work Opportunity Tax Credit, Inventory Acctg. under I.R.C. §§ 263A & 471, fixed assets, Income & Expense Recognition under I.R.C. §§ 451 & 461, & Tax Controversy. Req'ts Incl.: Bach's deg. or foreign equiv. in Econ., Acctg., Tax, or rel. field, & 2 yrs of rel. work exp. Travel to various loc. throughout the US req'd up to 5%. Salary is $60,400 - $117,300/yr.

Apply online at https://www.kpmguscareers.com/job-search & type req. #98530 in keyword search box for Experienced Professionals. Please contact us-hrscatsadmin@kpmg.com if you have difficulty applying.

If offered employment, must have legal right to work in the U.S. EOE.

KPMG offers a comprehensive compensation and benefits package.

No phone calls or agencies.

KPMG, an equal opportunity employer/disability/veteran. KPMG maintains a drug-free workplace.

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Employment

Technical Program Manager – Chassis: Fisker Group Inc. in Manhattan Beach, CA. Lead Chassis team to successfully drive dev for vehicle launch. May telecomm from any location w/in the U.S. Resume to mkulasekaran@fiskerinc.com. Job code 49434.2074. Salary $110,000

TECHNOLOGY
Apple Inc. has multiple positions available in Los Angeles, CA. Refer to Req# & email resume to jobadv@apple.com: Product Marketing Specialist (REQ#0389602) Pssess an ncrdbl vsion to dlivr bst-in-clss prdct xprience by trnslating user nsights nto bsiness opportunities acrss sftwre nd hrdwre pltfrms. $161,429.00 - $217,500.00/yr. Apple is an EOE/AA m/f/disability/vets.

TECHNOLOGY
BlackLine Systems, Inc. is accepting resumes for the position of Staff Software Engineer in Woodland Hills, CA (Ref. #HEMN). Design, develop, test, troubleshoot, debug, optimize, scale, maintain and improve software applications driving the delivery of high quality value and features to BlackLine's customers. Telecommuting permitted. Annual Salary: $202,507 to $232,507. Mail resume to BlackLine Systems, Inc., HR Department, Tamara Saltzman, 21300 Victory Blvd., 12th Floor, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Resume must include Ref. #HEMN, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

TECHNOLOGY
BlackLine Systems, Inc. is accepting resumes for the position of Senior Software Engineer in Woodland Hills, CA (Ref. #OHTK). Provide technical expertise and leadership in the design, development, and delivery of BlackLine's products, while adhering to timelines, coding standards, requirements, and quality. Telecommuting permitted. Annual Salary: $155,000 to $185,000. Mail resume to BlackLine Systems, Inc., HR Department, Tamara Saltzman, 21300 Victory Blvd., 12th Floor, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Resume must include Ref. #OHTK, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

TECHNOLOGY
BlackLine Systems, Inc. is accepting resumes for the position of Application Security Director in Woodland Hills, CA (Ref. #EEMV). Develop and execute the Application Security Strategy and support programs, as part of the larger Information Security Program as well as lead its on-going process improvements areas. Telecommuting permitted. Annual Salary: $186,638 to $216,638. Mail resume to BlackLine Systems, Inc., HR Department, Tamara Saltzman, 21300 Victory Blvd., 12th Floor, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Resume must include Ref. #EEMV, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

Truck Driver needed: Send resume to ETA Trans, Inc., 4790 Irvine Blvd., Ste. 105446, Irvine, CA 92620. Job location is in Anaheim, CA, wage ranges from $32K to $37K.

Valet Parking Attendant to Park vehicles or issue tickets for customers in a parking lot or garage. Mon-Fri 40hrs/wk. Mail resume to SAFETY PARK CORP, 100 Venice Way, Venice, CA, 90291

Web Developer. Asst in dsgn, devlpmnt, & mntnce of comp webst. Reqs: 1 yr exp in job offrd or rel pstn. Skills/knwldge in HTML, CSS, JavaScript, & WordPress. 40 hrs/wk. Salary: $48,838.00yr. Job Site: Los Angeles, CA. Email resume to: Utsuwa-No-Yakata at utsuwa.job@gmail.com

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Los Angeles Times

Not all California moves are out of state

[**Moving,** from B1]

Of the more than 1,700 ZIP Codes reviewed, 58% showed more move-outs than move-ins during the four-year span.

USPS processed about 36 million address changes nationwide in 2021. Requests can be submitted online or by using a paper form at a post office. When scaled for population, net move-out numbers in California are middle of the pack among states nationally.

One of those Californians planning to leave the state is Kevin Britton, who has steady work in Southern California and loves to ride his motorcycle to the sun-splashed cities of Malibu and Santa Monica. But he said he's fed up with the crime and the high cost of housing in the area.

So, the 34-year-old photographer and his wife are packing up their Sylmar townhouse and moving to Las Vegas this spring.

"The pay scale doesn't pay enough to justify the cost of living out here," he said, describing housing costs in California as "otherworldly."

Britton's upcoming move reflects an ongoing demographic trend in the Golden State: Most of those residents moving out are leaving big cities such as Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Over the last few years, a new pattern in California suggests that "the middle of the cities emptied out," and "people moved to the outer ring of the metro," said Dowell Myers, a professor of policy, planning and demography at USC.

Indeed, The Times' analysis shows that of the five ZIP Codes with the most net move-outs, three were in San Francisco and one was in Los Angeles.

The Northern California town of Paradise saw the second-most net move-outs following the devastating Camp fire in late 2018.

In the other direction, Menifee and other small cities continue to grow.

GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

LARGE COASTAL cities in the state, led by San Francisco and Los Angeles, above, have seen population drops in recent years. While many of those moving out leave the state, others have only relocated within it.

Armando Villa, the Menifee city manager, said he is working to transform the area "from a rural community and a lot of vacant land to a really prosperous city."

Menifee became a city in 2008, he said, making it the third-most recently incorporated city in California.

Since then, the population has soared, rising to an estimated 116,000 now from 85,000 in 2016, Villa said.

The city has been intentional about growing, he said. "We weren't surprised by it."

"A lot of new homes are being built," he said, even as interest rate hikes are slowing home sales.

City data show that more than 4,500 housing units were built from 2019 to 2022 in Menifee, with virtually all of them — 97% — being single-family homes.

Many of the new residents come from Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties, Villa said. "Housing shortages are making people drive this way to buy an affordable home," he said.

Not everyone is on board with the rapid growth. In the "Menifee 411" Facebook group, where some 22,000 members post about the community, a recent image of a proposed development drew ire from locals.

"Just stop. You're taking away all the beauty of this place. It's called hills and open land," the top comment read. Another: "We are running out of water and the power grid can't handle what we have now. Please stop building."

Although causation is complicated across large groups of people, experts pointed to key factors influencing migration: housing prices and the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The housing market was already really a problem" in 2019, when the data show more than 200,000 excess move-outs relative to move-ins before the pandemic, Myers said.

"Renters can move easy — owners can't," he said, noting that migration numbers are biased toward renters, who are typically younger and less wealthy than homeowners.

The moving trend was exacerbated by the pandemic.

The pandemic "synchronized everybody's behavior," causing home prices to jump "all of a sudden, tremendously" atop the preexisting problems with the housing market, Myers said.

Irvine is another city seeking to build housing to entice prospective homeowners from more expensive nearby cities.

Mayor Farrah Khan was not surprised that an Irvine ZIP Code shows the second-most net move-ins of any in California. In the area near the city's Great Park, some 10,000 homes have been proposed, she said, and builders have completed "six to seven thousand so far."

> 'Housing shortages are making people drive this way to buy an affordable home.'
>
> — ARMANDO VILLA, Menifee city manager

Noting that Irvine's population nearly doubles during business hours, Khan said that "we want to see more folks that live in Irvine [and] work in Irvine."

People moving in are coming from all over, she said, including those who come from "within Irvine, from Northern California, New York," and immigrants from China and Korea.

California has had net domestic out-migration since 1990, said Richard Green, director of the USC Lusk Center for Real Estate. "Overwhelmingly the out-migrants are low-income people," he said.

For two decades, "there was enough foreign migration to more than overwhelm the domestic out-migration" and keep California growing, Green said. Mexico and China accounted for large numbers of immigrants.

Recently, though, with cost-of-living increases and immigration curtailed by Trump administration policies and the pandemic, net out-migration has increased while immigration has decreased, contributing to the state's dropping population.

Britton, who grew up in the Miami metropolitan area, said he's "no stranger to high cost of living."

Britton's main subjects as a photographer are quintessentially Californian: high-end cars and porn stars.

"I have so many clients out here," he said of L.A., but "there's no reason to stay when it's cheaper to travel here" and live elsewhere.

He also has had issues with crime in Los Angeles: His truck was vandalized, his trailer robbed and then set aflame. Drivers exhibiting signs of road rage sometimes "follow us home and try to start something," Britton said.

In searching for somewhere else to go, Britton and his wife researched Texas, Colorado, Seattle and Las Vegas. Their choice was easy: They spotted a 3,200-square-foot house in Las Vegas that rents for half of what the couple pay for their 1,300-square-foot townhouse in Sylmar.

After the moves, Britton said he'll miss seeing classic cars on the streets of Los Angeles and the city's restaurant scene.

"Everybody wants to live here, but it's too expensive," he said.

Flush with rainfall, state will divert floodwaters

[**Assets,** from B1]

the San Joaquin River starting this week, officials said.

The plan is intended to address potential flood risks, capitalize on California's near-record snowpack and capture some of the high flows from the latest extreme storms to store water underground.

"We are taking steps to maximize groundwater recharge in a way that the state of California has never really done before," said Erik Ekdahl, deputy director of the state water board's water rights division. "This is an immense opportunity to help recharge these depleted aquifers."

State officials said their order allows the Bureau of Reclamation to manage flood flows from Friant Dam and change points where water is diverted along the San Joaquin River.

Where water sinks into the ground and replenishes the aquifer, it could help address declines in water levels that have left families with dry wells in rural areas across the Central Valley. Stabilizing water levels could also help alleviate the widespread problem of collapsing ground triggered by overpumping, which has caused costly damage to canals and other infrastructure.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said after the three driest years in state history, "California is taking decisive action to capture and store water for when dry conditions return."

Newsom has sought to prioritize capturing stormwater and recharging groundwater as central pieces of his administration's strategy for adapting to more intense water extremes with climate change. On Friday, the governor's office announced that he had signed an executive order enabling the capture of water from the latest round of storms.

The Bureau of Reclamation manages the dams, reservoirs and canals of the Central Valley Project and sends water to contractors including large agricultural irrigation districts and other agencies. The state order allows the federal government to deliver floodwater from the Mendota Pool, a small reservoir on the San Joaquin River, to be used for replenishing groundwater.

The water, which would otherwise have flowed down the San Joaquin River, will be available for irrigation districts and other agencies to divert for replenishing groundwater for more than four months. Under temporary contracts with the federal government, they will be able to send water through canals to areas with permeable soils that allow for groundwater recharge.

Some floodwaters will also pour into wildlife refuges, among them the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge, Mendota Wildlife Area and Los Banos Wildlife Area.

The state water board said in its order that the changes allow for capturing "high flows that would otherwise go unused," easing pressures on flood-control infrastructure and helping to address chronic declines in groundwater levels.

Environmental groups including the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Bay Institute objected to the plan, saying in a letter that the water diversions would allow for lower flows in the San Joaquin River than called for under a 2006 legal settlement, and would probably be harmful for Chinook salmon.

"While the order does not completely dry up the San Joaquin River, it will divert most of the water that was supposed to flow down the river under the court-approved settlement agreement, primarily to benefit corporate agribusinesses in the Westlands Water District," said Doug Obegi, a senior attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council. "Yet again, agribusinesses win while the environment gets less than its fair share of water."

Amanda Fencl, a senior climate scientist for the nonprofit Union of Concerned Scientists, said the plan raises questions about who will benefit the most, especially since many water contracts in the area are held by agricultural irrigation districts.

CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

THE DELTA-MENDOTA CANAL in the San Joaquin Valley. Water from the Mendota Pool, a small reservoir, will be used for replenishing a valley aquifer.

"It's critical to recharge aquifers, especially when there's an influx of rain," Fencl said. "But there's still an open question to me about whether other water users like households on domestic wells and community water systems will get to benefit."

State officials disagreed with the objections raised by environmental groups, saying the water diversions won't harm the environment and the flows left in the river will meet requirements.

"There's still going to be a lot of water moving down the San Joaquin," Ekdahl said. "The amount of water that will be rediverted here is still relatively low compared to how much water will be flowing in the system."

The Newsom administration and the federal government drew criticism from environmental groups for another decision last month, when they petitioned the state water board to temporarily waive water-quality rules in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta in an effort to store more water in reservoirs. The board ended that waiver on Thursday, saying the latest rains and snow make it no longer necessary.

Newsom set a goal last year, as part of his water supply plan, to increase average annual groundwater recharge by about 500,000 acre-feet. The state water board said that since December it has signed off on diverting about 790,000 acre-feet of water for groundwater replenishment as well as supplies for wildlife refuges.

Most of the water pumped from wells in the Central Valley supplies farms that produce a wide variety of crops, from almonds to tangerines.

Scientists found in a recent study that the depletion of groundwater in the valley has accelerated in recent years. They estimated that groundwater losses since 2003 have totaled about 36 million acre-feet, or about 1.3 times the full water-storing capacity of Lake Mead, the country's largest reservoir.

As state officials have increasingly prioritized aquifer recharge, they have pointed out that there is vast storage space available underground, and that replenishing groundwater is one of the simplest and most economical ways to take advantage of wet years.

Local water agencies have started to plan recharge projects as they begin to implement plans to curb excessive pumping, as required under the state's 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

There has also been a growing focus among water management officials on finding ways to ease the permit process to use stormwater for aquifer recharge, and to invest strategically in infrastructure to move water to areas where permeable soils make for fast paths to the groundwater.

The state water board said the single request from the federal government cleared the way for large-scale recharge without the need for approving numerous smaller permits.

The water that's used to replenish the aquifer will help local agencies move toward addressing overpumping under the groundwater law, said Thomas Harter, a professor of water resources at UC Davis.

Harter said 600,000 acre-feet is "a significant chunk, and it's certainly an important steppingstone toward future wet years and getting to these goals." He said the water stored underground can allow for eventual cutbacks in well-water use to be somewhat less severe than the reductions would otherwise need to be.

"To the degree we can increase the supply, and we can only do that by capturing these large flood flows and storing them, that's our main card in this game," Harter said. "It's not going to take away the need to reduce the demand, but it will lessen the need to do that."

Ann Willis, California regional director for the group American Rivers, said she thinks the newly approved plan is a good approach to recharge severely depleted groundwater.

"It expedites the regulatory process to take advantage of these higher flows when they're available," Willis said. "This is a positive thing that we're doing this, and I think we're going to learn a lot from it."

She said the minimum river flow required under the permit seems too low to support a healthy San Joaquin River, but flow gauges have recorded rising flows above that level.

"I think right now we have plenty of water to do both — both recharge and environmental flows," Willis said. "But that isn't always true. And we should be mindful about which one of those objectives we prioritize when there isn't enough water to go around."

While the state takes advantage of the storms to store water underground, efforts to rebuild depleted groundwater reserves will take time, said Karla Nemeth, director of the California Department of Water Resources. She said state officials are working with local agencies to expand these efforts and improve the permitting process for more recharge projects.

"We hope that over the course of these next series of storms, we can identify those projects and get those recharge systems activated," Nemeth said. "We know drought conditions will return to California, and it's really these moments that we have to capture, so that we can be resilient in the event of future dry conditions."

Times staff writer Hayley Smith contributed to this report.

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Los Angeles Times

BELL, Jacqueline

December 20, 1935 - February 22, 2023

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Jacqueline Bell. Born in Paris, France and a 45-year resident of Beverly Hills, Jacqueline passed away in her home after a very short battle with cancer. With a lifetime spent in the world of fashion from having a luxurious fur store in Paris to an exquisite boutique on Rodeo Drive and as an artist with strong interests in politics and philanthropy, Jacqueline had style and grace. She was generous and loved by all, as she touched so many people's heart. She is survived by her children Chantal, Sophie, Benjamin (Peta) and John, her grandchildren Jonathan (Melissa), Matthew (Leador), Ezra, Vanessa (Blake) & Rebecca as well as her great-grandchildren Jacob, Noah, Remington, Sawyer, Savanna & Canyon. As Chairwoman of the Board for over a decade to Israel Cancer Research Fund, donations in her memory can be made to www.icrfonline.org

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CHERRY, SR., Thomas William

February 20, 1939 - February 14, 2023

Thomas William Cherry, Sr. "Tom" passed away peacefully in Los Angeles on Tuesday, February 14. Tom was born and raised in Los Angeles, the youngest child of Helen Larkin Cherry and Dr. Creed Flanary Cherry. Tom attended Loyola High School, and Loyola University (now Loyola Marymount University) prior to embarking on a 35-year career in commercial banking that took him across the country. Tom was always proud of his association, Loyola High School and was a loyal Cub his entire life. He maintained close friendships with classmates from both Loyolas, as well as Cathedral Chapel elementary school, for his entire life. Tom was also very proud of his more than 25 years with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department as a Reserve Deputy.

Tom was a beloved son, brother, father, and grandfather to his family. Tom is survived by his sister, Sally Catherine Cherry Dempsey, of Denver, Colorado and Rancho Mirage, California; and his children, son Tom Cherry, Jr. and wife Genelle Cherry, and granddaughters Caitlyn and Sloane; son John Cherry and wife Sheri Ungar, and grandchildren Jillian and Andrew; and daughter Michelle Cherry.

A funeral Mass will be held on Friday, March 17, at 11:00 AM at All Soul's Chapel at Calvary Cemetery, 4201 Whittier Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90023. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to a charity of your choice.

DYM, Sheila

January 23, 1941 - March 10, 2023

Wife of Jack Dym MD and mother of Alyssa Pizer(Brad) and Laura Cohen(Gregory). Grandchildren Joshua Cohen, Jeremy Cohen and Sydney Pizer. Sheila was a wonderful person who was friendly, supportive ,and caring. She will be much missed.

FINEMAN, Mark Andrew

October 5, 1954 - March 6, 2023

Passed away after a long illness at is home in Lake Havasu, Az. A Los Angeles native. He is survived by his loving wife Cheryl, Children, Jessica Salter, Leah Hemphill, Josh Mundy and Michael Mundy. Sisters, Linda Fineman Gallagher, Barbara Fineman Linton, and Briannaa Ariel and five grandchildren. Celebration of Mark's life will at Lake Havasu Golf Club March 31st at 5PM

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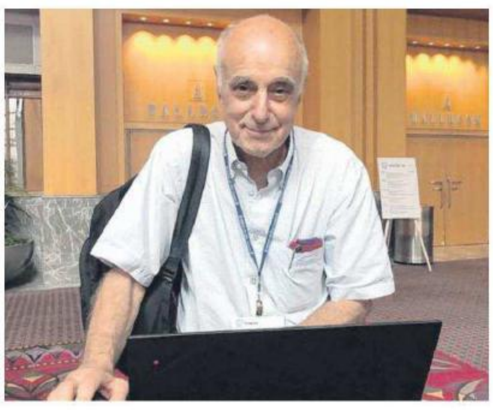

Hal Levin

October 6, 1941 - February 21, 2023

✡ Hal Levin, a pioneer and leader in the field of indoor air quality and building ecology, died in Laveno, Italy on February 21, 2023.

Hal was born in Portland, Oregon on October 6, 1941, the son of Mollie Schnitzer Levin and Bernard Levin. After his father returned from World War II, the family moved to Beverly Hills, California. Hal's lifelong love of baseball began there, as he played from Little League through high school. He attended Cornell University before transferring to the University of California at Berkeley, pitching on both baseball teams. He continued to pitch throughout his life and pitched in senior leagues until he was seventy-seven years old.

Hal was a volunteer architect in the Peace Corps in Colombia from 1966-1968. After returning from the Peace Corps, he graduated from Cal with degrees in architecture and English. For the next several years, he worked at the Organization for Social and Technological Innovation and Building Systems Development, working on affordable and sustainable housing. Hal moved to Boulder Creek, California in 1973 and built houses. He was a Research Specialist at the College of Environmental Design at UC Berkeley, where he taught budding architects about the need to understand the realities of constructing the things that they designed. In 1972, he founded the Building Ecology Research Group.

In 1977, then Governor Jerry Brown appointed Hal as a public member of the California State Board of Architectural Examiners, a position he held until 1985, and was President of the Board in 1983 and 1984. As a member of the Board, he held hearings on "sick building syndrome". These hearings ignited his interest in indoor air quality and the ecology of buildings. He was early to recognize the need for and value of examining the toxicity of building materials and systems used in their construction and operation. His work focused on the integration of knowledge about indoor and outdoor air pollution as well as other risk factors into the design, construction, and operation of residential and commercial buildings and communities.

Hal was the President of the Indoor Air Institute and a Principal in Building Ecology Research Group. He was a prolific author on the subject of indoor air quality. He was engaged by many institutions as a lecturer, research scientist, architect, and consultant throughout the world. These included Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, UC Davis, the University of California, the State of California, the National Institutes of Health, the World Health Organization, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He lectured extensively all over the world and taught at UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz and Harvard University. Hal was a member of many organizations, including the American Society for Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) which gave him its distinguished service award, American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), which gave him its Award of Merit, and the International Society of Indoor Air Sciences. Hal was the President of Indoor Air 2002, organizing the Ninth International Conference on Indoor Air Quality and Climate, held in Monterey, California in 2002. In 2018, at the Fifteenth International Conference, Hal was given the Lifetime Service Award for his exceptional contributions to indoor air sciences.

Hal's influence in the field was profound. He recognized the gaps in his knowledge of an evolving field, the result of which was the extent to which he pressed himself and others to stretch their own efforts to make buildings increasingly healthy and sustainable. Among his strengths was an ability to help his students and colleagues find both voice and encouragement where it had been absent. As one colleague said, "He made me a better person." Similar reflections like "a better researcher;" "a better professional" "a better carpenter" are a few of the expressions from his many friends and colleagues.

Having developed an interest in South American music while in the Peace Corps, Hal hosted a show on Santa Cruz public radio station KUSP for eighteen years. Hal was a vegetarian for fifty years and enjoyed organic gardening.

In 2003, Hal met the love of his life, Mariachiara Tallacchini—a law professor and ethicist-- in Milan, Italy. They were married in 2004 and shared a bicontinental marriage for the next fifteen years. In 2019, he concluded that it was time to retire and, with their dog, Aki, move to Reno di Leggiuno, Italy, by Lake Maggiore so that he could be with Mariachiara full time. Sadly, Hal was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in April 2020, and his health declined rapidly.

In addition to his wife, Hal is survived by his sisters, Ellen Jacobs (Martin) and Nancy Levin (Daniel Caraco); his nephews Joel Jacobs (Denise Wolf) and Joshua Caraco; his niece Margie Jacobs (Andrew Seplow); great-nieces and cousins; and Aki. Hal's parents and his nephew Benjamin Caraco predeceased him.

The family requests that donations in Hal's memory be made to the Ben Caraco/Scott Stapleton Scholarship Fund at The College Preparatory School in Oakland, California, the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, or the Natural Resources Defense Council..

GROSSMAN, Irwin

April 7, 1933 - February 20, 2023

Irwin Grossman, treasured father, brother, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle and friend to so many, passed away peacefully at his home in Culver City, CA on February 20, 2023. He was surrounded by loved ones at the time of his passing.

He is survived by daughter Hilarie Moran and son-in-law Michael Moran, grandson Kyle Moran and granddaughter-in-law Dr. Jessica Moran, granddaughter Emily Moran, great-granddaughters Maya and Leah, brothers Otto Grossman, Dr. Michael Grossman and sister-in-law Cynthia Grossman, sister Susan Freedy and brother-in-law Amos Freedy PhD, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Irwin was born in the small town of Košic in Eastern Slovakia to parents Rose and Herman Grossman. He was one of five siblings and endured the devastating loss of his father and younger brother Alexander in the Holocaust. Irwin and his family immigrated to the United States in January, 1948. He attended UCLA and graduated with a BS degree from the School of Engineering and was briefly married to Norene Harris with whom he shared one daughter. After working in Engineering for many years, he decided to pursue his passion for Real Estate and launched I. Grossman and Company in 1973. He worked tirelessly to make this endeavor a great success for many decades.

Irwin had a deep passion for history, languages, music, food, the color orange and love of Judaism. He will be remembered for his tremendous devotion to family, his inner strength and perseverance, and kindness and generosity towards those in need.

Please consider making a donation to the Jewish Community Center in Irwin's memory at jccmb.com

HANSEN, Lisa Dawn

April 17, 1964 - February 17, 2023

Lisa Dawn Hansen passed away peacefully February 17, 2023, in Torrance, CA. She was surrounded by loving family and friends as we celebrated her life, shared stories, laughs and many tears. Lisa leaves behind a legacy of philanthropy, leadership, service to others and a wealth of good memories held by her family and friends. She brought tremendous energy, light and laughter into every room she entered and cared deeply for her family, friends, and community. She was generous beyond words and lived by her motto "Kindness Matters" often distributing small items printed with her mantra. Lisa grew up on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, attended Miraleste High School and USC, where she was a member of the Tri Delta sorority. Lisa served as Chair of the Kenneth T. & Eileen L. Norris Foundation, headquartered in Long Beach, CA for over 20 years. She worked to expand opportunities for those living in the Los Angeles area through her service with the Foundation. Lisa served on many non-profit boards and executive committees, including the Blind Children's Center, California Science Center, Las Floristas, Banning Residence Museum and the Bookworm Guild. Lisa was also a longtime supporter of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, The Town & Gown of USC, the Blue Ribbon supporting The Music Center, Autry Museum of the American Southwest, Torrance Memorial Medical Center, Palos Verdes Performing Arts Center, Palos Verdes Land Conservancy, Boys & Girls Club of Los Angeles Harbor, USS Iowa, and a member of Seaside Community Church in Torrance. Lisa loved sports. She played on her high school soccer, tennis and powder puff football teams. Depending on the season, Lisa would be seen wearing a USC Trojan hat, Dodger jersey or on occasion, her Green Bay Packers Cheesehead of which she was a proud shareholder. Super Bowl Sunday was her favorite holiday! In addition to sports, Lisa loved lakes, boating and camp. Most of all Lisa loved her family and friends. She was a beautiful person who spread joy, light and happiness wherever she went. Lisa was preceded in death by her mother Harlyne Norris, step-father Kenneth Norris and father Gene Martin. She is survived by her loving husband Steve, sister Kim Presley, brother-in-law Ron Presley, niece Kelly LaPree, nephew Ryan Presley and wife Neilsa, great niece Stella, great nephew Leo, great niece Morgan, brother Jim Martin and sister-in-law Christina Martin, nephew Cameron Martin, niece Kate Martin, in-laws, cousins, friends, and her dog Chico. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

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Los Angeles Times

HART, JR., William Joel

January 27, 1945 - February 11, 2023

"each nail
grieves in its own voice
leaving the wood"

A fellow poet described this haiku by William Hart as "elegant, simple yet vivid..." That describes William Hart's personality as well. The vivid interior life, while not always easy on the artist, is the source of the gift he leaves for those who mourn him.

William "Bill" Hart, of Montrose, CA succumbed to Covid-19 complications caused by underlying lymphoma and respiratory issues. Born in Wichita KS, to William Joel and Louise (Loy) Hart, he graduated from East High (1963), then attended the University of Kansas (1963-67) and Wichita State University (1977-79). He received his Ph.D. in 1985 from the University of Southern California. Alongside his academic career, he worked in sheet metal—in fabrication at Cessna, and also in customizing and installation. In Denver CO and Ashland OR, he worked as an unskilled laborer while he developed a career in writing. His last teaching position was in the English Department at California State University, Los Angeles from which he retired in 2000 and devoted himself full time to his poetry and prose.

Bill's published fiction/memoir titles are Never Fade Away, Operation Supergoose, Roller Rink Starlight and My Friend Richard. His Midwestern short story collection Better Bring a Lunch is ready for publication. His haiku and tanka collections are Monsoon, Paris, Wildcat Road, Hard Bucks, Journeyman's Dues, Factory Stiff, On Cat Time, Rabindra Sarobar, Home to Ballygunge / Kolkata Tanka and Cloud Eats Mountain. His poetry won international as well as national awards. Bill also wrote and produced documentary films along with his wife Jayasri. Two of those, Roots in the Sand and Sisters of Selma have been archived for their historical value.

Sadly, Lynda, the daughter of Bill and his first wife Carole, predeceased him. But he is survived and celebrated by his wife Jayasri, brother John in New Hampshire, their families, generations of students, and innumerable relatives, friends, associates and well-wishers around the globe. Of the many heartfelt condolences, one was from an East High grad, "...he was my hero for a big part of my adolescence. I would like to have talked about that with him but I never could do it. Now I won't be able to." The most recent is from his partner in thematic rengay verse writing: "Bill's laughter, honesty, passion and good humor were some of his greatest gifts to me…" He closed with his favorite among Bill's haiku:

"sparrows pour
through a blue hole
into our gray world"

A California State University colleague said goodbye in Shakespeare's words: "Good night, sweet prince! And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!" and then she added, "May flights of angels sing Bill Hart to his rest."

Final arrangements were made under the direction of Douglass & Zook Funeral and Cremation Services, Monrovia, California. Please visit their memorial page for William Joel Hart Jr. https://obituaries.douglassandzook.com/obituaries/william-hart-jr

A virtual memorial is scheduled for the 27th of March, starting 8:00am PST.

HAY, Robert Wallace

November 15, 1927 - February 25, 2023

On February 25, 2023, at the age of 95, Robert Wallace Hay passed away gently in his own home, surrounded by memories of a life well lived. He is survived by his children, Eileen Hay and Patricia Nelson and his two grandchildren, Robert Hay Nelson and Alison Peifer Hay, and also by his long time companion Lorrie Spratt. He is predeceased by his wife Joan Hay, his son Brian Robert Hay and his sister Mary Peterson.

Robert was born and raised in Los Angeles to parents Lucile and Earl G. Hay. He first went to Cal Tech then graduated from Annapolis and went on to serve as a lieutenant during the Korean War. While at Annapolis he met and married Joan Hay in a stunning military ceremony and they had three children, Patricia, Eileen and Brian. They remained married until Joan's passing in 2008.

After leaving the armed forces Robert joined his father at California Aircraft Tool Co., a business Earl Hay founded in Inglewood, CA. Robert's son Brian eventually came into the business working alongside Robert for many years making it a three generation organization. Robert and Earl Hay expanded the family's business interests to include real estate holdings in Los Angeles and Forest Falls. In Forest Falls, in early days, they owned and operated a public swimming pool and store. Forest Falls became beloved by the entire family and four generations of the Hay/Peterson family have had many joyful memories of our family gatherings at "the cabin".

Robert has been a Mason in good standing since 1951 and in these last years he was active in his church and the Lion's Club. The passing of Robert Hay is certainly the end of an era, and we celebrate his long and fruitful life.

There will be a memorial service at the Westchester United Methodist Church, 8065 Emerson Ave LA 90045 Saturday, March 25 at 1:00pm. A reception will held at his home afterward.

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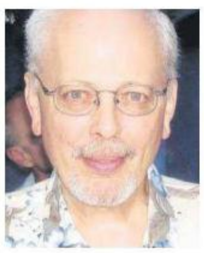

JOYNER, Thomas

December 7, 1943 - February 22, 2023

Thomas Joyner, beloved husband, father, and grandfather, passed away in the pre-dawn hours on Wednesday, February 22, 2023. He was seventy-nine. Born on December 7th, 1943 in Oak Park, Illinois to Major Battle Joyner and Laverne Lungren, Tom and his older brother John grew up traveling for extended stints in cities across the world for his father's work at TWA. Upon graduation, Tom enlisted in the US Marine Corps, a formative period which instilled in him a discipline that would help turn so many Hollywood artistic dreams into realities. After his military service, Tom studied English at Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado where he met the love of his life, Laura Diggs. They married July 31,1968 and had two children Dawn and Christopher.

In 1969, Tom earned a spot in the DGA Assistant Directors Training Program, which led to regular work for Universal Studios. He worked as 2nd Assistant Director (AD) on Duel, director Steven Spielberg's first feature film. After The Sugarland Express, Tom Joyner became 1st AD on the blockbuster movie that changed Hollywood history: Jaws. Working now as an Assistant Director, Unit Production Manager(UPM), or Executive Producer, Tom Joyner continued delivering classic American movies: High Plains Drifter, Jaws 2, More American Graffiti, Blues Brothers, Starman, Poltergeist II, Against All Odds, Tender Mercies, The Color of Money, Good Morning Vietnam, Three Men and a Baby, The Bodyguard, and more. Tom worked as Executive Production Manager for Walt Disney Pictures (1985-1987), and later Vice President of Feature Production at Warner Bros. (1990-1996). In 1999, he received the DGA's Frank Capra's Achievement Award for contributions to his profession and the Guild.

Tom is survived by his wife Laura, daughter Dawn (Christian Counselor), son Christopher (musician), and grandchildren Brandon Roby, and Nickolaus Ellsworth.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to the National Kidney Foundation would be appreciated.

A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

KIPP, Sara-Marie K.

March 25, 1926 - March 5, 2023

Sara-Marie K. Kipp (nee Keul), of Haverford, PA, formerly of Riverton, NJ, passed away peacefully on March 5, 2023.

Sara-Marie (Sally to her friends) was born March 25, 1926 in Philadelphia, PA to Sylvester Edwin Keul and Sara Elizabeth (nee McLaughlin) Keul. She was predeceased by her husband, Henry, in 2014, her brother Sylvester (Ed) in 2001, her son, Donald Martin in 2008 and her daughter, Cheryl, in 2010. She is survived by her son, Richard (Darcy Allen) and her granddaughter, Kristen Dodds.

Sara-Marie attended Little Flower, The Cecilian Academy and Temple University in Northeast Philadelphia. She was a lover of the performing arts and participated in theater and sang while in school, in addition to playing cello and piano. She was married to Henry in 1950 and had her three children in 1951, 1954 and 1959. While raising her children, she volunteered on the Sacred Heart Parent Teachers Association and participated in the Riverton Woman's Club. Once the kids were grown, Sally worked as a travel agent before moving to California in 1978 where she worked for Bayer until her retirement in 1991. Sally loved to travel and managed to step foot on four of the seven continents and most of the fifty states. She enjoyed our annual trip to the Preakness, and a trip to the casino was never out of the question. She had a quick wit. Never met a pun she disliked and was a lover of fashion (Bob Mackie will surely miss her!).

She made friends wherever she went, and they are missing her dearly.

Relatives and friends are invited to gather on Saturday, March 18th at Sacred Heart Church, 4th Street and Linden Ave, Riverton, from 10 am to 11 am. A Mass will begin at 11 am.

Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Sara-Marie's memory may be made to the American Lung Association (www.lung.org).

To share your fondest memories and condolences, please visit www.Givnish.com

The year that was 1935

Although a primitive, two-color process was first used in 1922, audiences weren't impressed by Technicolor until a three-color system appeared in "Becky Sharp."

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MCFARLANE, Patricia

Patricia Lucille McFarlane passed away on February 28, 2023, at the age of 91. She was a loving wife to Donald for 68 years. She was a devoted mother to Jim (Alicia) McFarlane and Marcy (Alan) Schwitzgebel. Pat will be missed greatly by her grandchildren Kathryn (Eric) Nyquist, Patrick (Jacqui) McFarlane, Laura Rose Schwitzgebel, Christine Schwitzgebel, and her great-grandchildren Benjamin Nyquist and Violet McFarlane. Pat was predeceased by her husband Donald McFarlane, her parents Ray and Lucille Gilbert, and her brother Jack Gilbert. Pat was a successful model in Northern California during her late teens. Her beauty and style was ageless as she was often stopped by strangers admiring her appearance. Patricia met Don at "The Alley" a local restaurant in Oakland, CA. He came up to her to dance, with the line "Haven't I seen you someplace before?" She had in fact been in the newspaper that day. Pat and Don traveled extensively to Europe, Asia and South America and finally settled in Montecito, California. Pat enjoyed cooking gourmet meals, entertaining and gardening. Her day started with a walk through her garden. She could identify each rose and always had beautiful floral arrangements scattered throughout their home. Her elegance, grace and love of family will live on in her family and friends. Services will be private.

MCMANUS, June Patricia

June 21, 1935 - February 22, 2023

June Patricia (JP) McManus, aka Mother Aloysius RSHM

June Patricia McManus was born in New York City on June 21, 1935 to Veronica & John McManus. She passed away February 22, 2023 in Torrance, CA.

June was preceded in death by her mother Veronica (1986) father John (1993), Sister Rosemarie (1996) and brother William (2015). All were very proud New Yorkers.

June attended Good Shepherd Grammar School, as well as Scared Heart of Mary High School in Park Terrace, both in Inwood, NY.

June entered the Catholic RSHM Community in 1953. After two years of Novitiate, she was transferred to the San Fernando Valley in CA where she taught at Saint Francis de Sales and Corvallis High School, as well as completing her B.A. at Marymount College. Thereafter, she held various administrative positions and sponsored many activities as Resident Director and Dean of Students at Marymount Palos Verdes College.

June was grateful for the many experiences in her Religious Life. When family matters and health issues became significant, she left the RSHM Community. This allowed June more time with her father, who was living with her in San Pedro, CA.

After leaving Marymount Palos Verdes College and the RSHM Community, June worked as a certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor. She worked at San Pedro Recovery Center for twelve years.

June was always a fun-loving, caring, and adventurous person.

Her greatest goal was to be remembered and supported by the students at the various schools that she served.

June moved into Sunnyside Residence Center in Torrance where she met many new friends, and challenges, and as always, a new mission!

June's gratitude will always be with those that shared her passions as a compassionate teacher and counselor.

We will all miss her greatly.

To honor June, please join us on Thursday, March 23 at Holy Trinity Church in San Pedro. For info call Marco at 760-835-2701

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MCNIFF, Dorothy

January 20, 1939 - February 11, 2023

Dorothy Evelyn McNiff peacefully passed away at home on February 11, 2023, at the age of 84, surrounded by her family. She was an amazing wife and mother who will be greatly missed by her husband and two children, their families, and many friends and relatives.

Dotty was born in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, New York, and moved west in the Fifties, first to San Mateo and then San Gabriel, finally settling down in Costa Mesa, to raise her family.

Mom was a woman of style and grace, who proudly loved her family. A stay-at-home mom until the kids were in middle school, she began a long, successful career and worked into her seventies. Prior to returning to the working world, she never missed a baseball game or tennis match. Always a wonderful baker, in her last 30 years she poured her passion into rescuing dogs and picking up her grandkids from school. She was also a music lover, from Sinatra to Creedence Clearwater Revival, and the Eagles to the Rolling Stones.

She was dearly loved and left this world far too soon. She is predeceased by her parents Arthur and Dorothy Rosenthal, and her siblings Carol, Bob and John. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, her sons Grant (Sheri) and Michael (Kirsten), and her grandchildren Samantha (Bobby), Brittany (Dan), Isabelle, Max and Jack, and six great grandchildren.

To all who knew her, think of a memory and put on 'Hotel California,' and smile. In lieu of flowers, please give to a local animal rescue organization or the California Women's Recovery, a 501(c)(3) charity.

A Celebration of Life will be held March 17 at 11 a.m. at Halecrest Park.

MISONO , Nobu

January 11, 1917 - February 20, 2023

Nobu Misono, 106-year-old, Los Angeles-born, resident of Los Angeles passed away peacefully at her residence on February 20. She was predeceased by her loving husband, George Sukenari Misono; daughter, Helen Hisako Yamaguchi. She is survived by her loving family: daughter, Mary Misono; grandchildren, Susan, Gary, and Douglas, Kenji Yamaguchi; great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews in San Diego, the greater Los Angeles area, and Japan.

Funeral service was held February 25, 2023 at the West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple, Reverend Koho Takata officiating.

www.fukuimortuary.com
(213)626-0441

MURA, Miyoko

(85) peacefully passed away on February 18, 2023 in La Palma, CA. She is survived by her husband, Hideo Mura; sister, Namiyo Ashioka of Japan; siblings-in-law, Tsuyoshi (Mie) and Isao (Carol) Mura, Lily Kiyomi Watanabe, Keiko (Roy) Kinoshita; also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives in the US and Japan.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 10:30 AM at Zenshuji Soto Mission, 123 S. Hewitt St., Los Angeles.

www.kubotamortuary.com
(213) 749-1449

SCHAFLER, Magda

December 31, 1945 - March 4, 2023

Magda Schafler was born in Barcelona, Spain to Miquel Vidal and Francisca Dotor. She was raised with her older sister Josefina. She moved to Los Angeles to marry Armin Schafler. They were married for 30 years and had a son, Michael, who was everything to her. Magda worked for more than 30 years as a Spanish Interpreter for the L.A. County Superior Court. Her life was centered around love for family, friends, pets and community. She was fiercely independent, curious, intelligent, beyond generous, hilarious, an amazing cook, a proud Catalana, and a wonderful friend -- her parties were legendary. Everyone who knew her loved her. And she loved them back. She is survived by her devoted and loving family, including her sister, Josefina; niece, Carolina; son, Michael; daughter-in-law, Rebecca: and grandchildren, Lucas and Lily. She will be profoundly missed and always loved.

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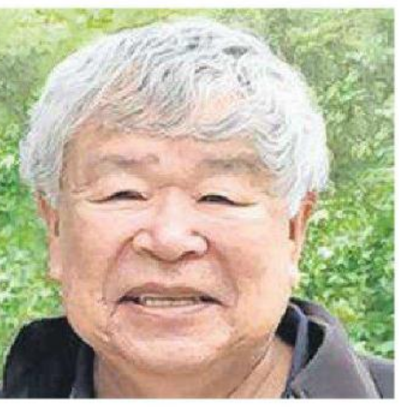

Ben T Nose

Ben Nose (Cerritos) passed away on March 20, 2020. A memorial service for friends and family to celebrate his life will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 10 am. Further details are available at BenNoseMemorial.com.

SCHELDEN, Bruce Gilbert

April 6, 1939 - March 1, 2023

Bruce Schelden, 83, died peacefully at his home in Playa Del Rey. Bruce is survived by his two sons Greg and Brad and his grandsons Bryce and Davis. Bruce was born in Marine City, Michigan. After graduating from Wayne State University in Detroit he moved to California in the early 60s and settled in Long Beach. He never forgot his Michigan roots and always stood by his beloved Detroit Lions, Red Wings and Tigers. His first job was at North American Aviation on the Apollo program. He soon got a job at JPL where he met his wife Patricia and many of his lifelong friends. Bruce got his masters degree at USC and continued his career in the Aerospace industry with a job at Hughes Aircraft. He was a big film buff and joined an extra company, appearing in many films and television shows. He played bridge weekly with the Agile Bridge Club and directed many games there over the last decade. He volunteered as an information docent at the LAX airport. Bruce also volunteered as a docent at the Friends of the Ballona Wetlands and served on the board of directors at the Playa Vista Institute. Bruce will be missed by the many friends and acquaintances he met over the years.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Friends of Ballona Wetlands and Playa Vista Institute.

TROUSDALE, Melvin D

November 1939 - February 23, 2023

Everyone's friend, Mel, passed peacefully at sunrise with his family; wife, Cindy, children, Pamela(Gary) Bailey, Jill(Brian)Barr and Benjamin(Karen)Trousdale by his side. He was the proud grandfather to Emily and Rachael Bailey, Kirkwood and Franklin Barr and Kennedy Trousdale.

The accomplished Doheny Eye Institute researcher was born in Harlingen, Texas. He attended Baylor University due to a generous full academic scholarship from the Methodist Home for Children in Waco. He went on to work at the NIH in the new field of Virology while graduating from the University of Maryland. During those years he served in the Marine Corp Reserves at Camp Pendelton. He returned to Texas to complete his Ph.D. at the University of Texas, San Antonio all the while enjoying canoeing, playing tennis, squash, racket ball and golf.

He maintained life-long relationships with childhood friends from The Home and Waco High School where he was a stand-out football player and even more friends during his 40 years in California. He enjoyed camping, scuba-diving, being a good neighbor, raising his children in Pasadena and retiring in Redondo Beach.

Memorial service will be on Sunday, March 26th, at 10am at Royal Oaks, 1763 Royal Oaks Dr. N., Bradbury, CA 91010. In lieu of flowers, he would be fondly remembered in the Methodist Home for Children's Alumni Association Endowment Fund, Waco, Texas - Doheny Eye Institute, Ronald E. Smith Memorial Fund, Pasadena, CA - Royal Oaks Employee Appreciation Fund, Bradbury, CA. - Hillsides Home for Children, Pasadena, CA.

WACKS, Michael F.

April 10, 1944 - March 5, 2023

Michael F. Wacks passed away peacefully at the age of 78 on Sunday March 5, 2023. Raised in Buffalo, NY, he attended Canisius Prep School before earning his Bachelor's degree from Wheeling College in West Virginia. He then pursued law and earned his J.D. from the University of Buffalo.

Michael became a Special Agent of the FBI in Los Angeles, California, where he served for 30 years. His service earned him numerous accolades throughout his career as well as lifelong friends.

When he wasn't working, he loved to spend time playing golf and traveling. He will be remembered for his sharp mind and sense of humor. Michael is survived by his wife of 28 years Carole Lee Wacks; brother-law Robert Chiller (Roxanne Ritzel); niece Jennie Gordon (Seth) and their children Myles and Madeline; nephew Matthew Chiller (Kate) and their children Ben, Sophie and Samuel; and cousin Sean Cox (Megann) and their children Dylan and Ellis Michael.

Private services will be held. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI Foundation (socxfbi.org).

WILKIN, Richard Coyne

July 11, 1970 - March 8, 2023

Beloved son of the late Daniel and Judith, brother to the late David and Cheryl, Douglas and Susan, and Jonathan, and uncle to Benjamin, Brandon and Annie. Nephew to Howard and Miriam Landres, the late Winston and Roslyn Millet, the late Hilda Wilkin, and the late Leonard and late Shirley Wilkin. Left us way too soon. Mt. Sinai Hollywood Hills, Tuesday March 14, 2PM.

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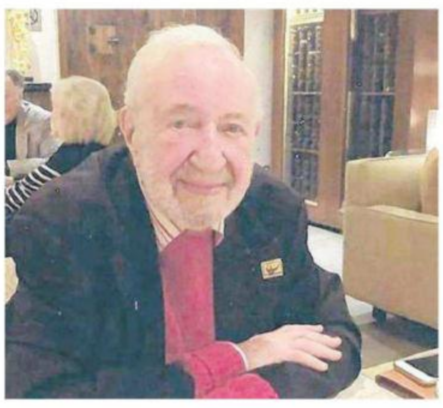


Jay Weston

March 9, 1929 - February 28, 2023

Producer and restaurant critic Jay Weston died on February 28, 2023 of natural causes at the Motion Picture Home in Woodland Hills, CA at the age of 93.

His many films include Lady Sings the Blues. which was nominated for five Academy Awards, For Love of Ivy starring Sidney Poitier, Billy Wilder's last film, Buddy Buddy starring Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon and W.C. Fields and Me with Rod Steiger. He also published a restaurant newsletter for more than 30 years.

Jay Weston was born in Brooklyn, New York on March 9, 1929.

Jay is survived by his ex-wife, Annabelle Weston Shulman; his daughter, Teresa Kraegel (Bill) and grandchildren, Connor and Caroline; sister, Ann Sowers and nephews Greg and Eric Gantwarg.

Truman Estee Bailey, Jr.

November 18, 1934 - January 7, 2023

Truman Estee Bailey, Jr. of Hot Springs, Arkansas, passed away January 7, 2023. Born on November 18, 1934 in San Francisco, California, the son of Truman Estee Bailey Sr. and Rosalie Alberta Maus Bailey. He married Francis (Frani) Davis on November 5, 1984.

He was preceded in death by both parents, brother Maus Bailey, and sister Gladys (Hap) Hudec.

After retiring from a career as a Realtor and Real Estate Appraiser in California where he lived much of his adult life, he and Frani moved to Hot Springs, Arkansas, some 10 years ago, where they joined the First Presbyterian Church of Hot Springs and have enjoyed singing in the church choir. Frani is currently one of the 12 ruling elders at that church.

Truman loved the outdoors and particularly the ocean where he spent many happy hours as a member of the Adventura Sailing club. In addition to sailing he enjoyed other adventurous sports in the air, as a sky diver and flying ultra-light aircraft. Truman was outgoing, having never met a stranger, and quickly assimilated into the Hot Springs life. Truman and Frani loved to entertain and show off his skills as a gourmet chef.

Truman was always up to a challenge and faced those challenges with courage and dignity. Such was the case when, after 6 months of unsuccessful hospital treatment, he made the decision to place his life in the care of a hospice team and live his remaining days at home, with his loving wife Frani and daughter Diana at his side. Diana left her job in Orange County periodically to assist Frani from the day he was first hospitalized to his death. Frani will attest that Diana's presence and assistance in those last days added immensely to Truman's comfort and to ease the burden on Frani in dealing with the Hospital, rehab, Medicare, the hospice team and several caregivers.

Truman is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Frani Bailey; daughter and son-in-law, Diana Bailey-Tuder and James Tuder; his grand-children Draco Tuder and Sterling Tuder; brother Nigel Bailey; plus nieces, nephews; extended family members and a host of wonderful and caring friends. Truman was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and brother, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

An Orange County "Celebration of Life" will occur at an undetermined date in the future.

Anne-Marie Paulter

November 8, 1932 - February 7, 2023

Anne-Marie Paulter (née Moret) was a retired US Navy comptroller and a retired accountant for the State of California. She was a long-term resident of Ventura County, CA, living in Ventura, Camarillo, and finally Newbury Park.

Anne is survived by her three sons Dominique Moret, with wife Christelle Trancart and son Florian Moret; Phillip G. Paulter, with wife Kathleen A. Paulter and daughter Lauren Dasher; and Nicholas G. Paulter, Jr., with wife Cynthia D. Paulter and children (in order of age) Chenchia L. Chatman, Chelsea K. Chatman, Raymi O. Chatman, Grace A. Paulter, Aubrey J. Cummings, Jr., Nicholas G. Paulter, III, and Cooper D. Paulter; and her life companion of over forty years, Gerald Butler. She was predeceased by her parents, Louis Moret and Thérèse Marie Moret (née Baranton); her two sisters, Marie Louise Moret-Chavatte and Marie Françoise Moret; and her brother, Julien Moret.

Anne was born in Laon, France and was a young girl during the German occupation of France during WWII. After the end of war, she met Nicholas G. Paulter, a sergeant in the US Army, to whom she married. They moved to the United States, living first in New Jersey and settling permanently in California; first in Fairfield, then Edwards Air Force Base, and finally Lancaster before divorcing. After that, she moved to Ventura, then Camarillo, and finally to Newbury Park. She was an enthusiastic learner, getting her Bachelor and Master degrees while working, thus advancing her career and establishing herself as an exemplar of achievement and success through education.

Anne's children and grandchildren were the love and purpose of her life, and she was an exceedingly loving and nurturing mother and grandmother. She enjoyed spending as much time with them as possible, not impeded by thousands of miles of separation. Anne enjoyed being outside, walking along the beach or boardwalk, or simply enjoying the sunshine. She practiced Tai Chi and yoga, and liked to read and learn. Anne was committed to helping others, volunteering her time and services to help others with accounting issues, teaching English to French-only speakers, supporting voter activities, etc. Anne was an avid Roman Catholic, hardly missing a Sunday or Holy-Day-of-Obligation service for more than eight decades, strongly believing in the power of prayer and a perpetual life in Heaven after bodily death. We all hope to see you there, Mom.

Kris Mowrey

September 24, 1954 - January 8, 2023

There will never be another quite like her. Kris shared her sparkling smile with everyone she met. It sprung from a radiant reservoir of joy, which spilled over to all of us fortunate enough to know her. She embraced this commitment to cheer throughout a 14-year slugfest with the cancer, multiple myeloma.

This tenacious spirit was born in Columbus, Ohio and grew up surrounded by a loving family… brothers Craig and Bucky, sisters Lisa and Mindy, and her quick-to-smile parents, Dale and Mary Louise.

She spent her childhood in and around Pataskala Ohio, and made her mark early as an excellent student and yearbook celebrated "Most Humorous". More importantly, she revealed herself as a caring, loving and boundlessly joyful friend.

After high school, she attended the U of H in Honolulu, majoring in education. She truly loved the island life and became an avid swimmer.

Upon returning home, she moved to Florida and went to clown school. Yes, there is such a thing. She met a man, married him, and moved to Kentucky to study theater at the University of Louisville. That marriage ended, but soon after, she met her true love, Dennis, at a tree, stage left, at Shakespeare in Central Park in Louisville.

She worked briefly at Disney World as a tour guide. As a lifelong fan of Disney, Kris forever wore a Mickey Mouse watch, always set five minutes fast. Then, as a girl who loved state fairs, she enjoyed a stint as a carny running a "Speedball" joint.

In 1983, she moved to Los Angeles to be with Dennis, her eventual husband. Their conspicuous love for each other and life quickly attracted a fun-loving group of friends who shared their joyful energy.

Kris had a passion for books…loved to read them, see them, share them and collect them. Over the years, she amassed an eclectic library of hundreds of books, and she loved them all. That led to her working at book stores for years, mostly part-time, because Kris needed time to pursue her skillful passion for game shows.

17 days after arriving in 1983, she had already appeared on a game show and won. Over the next 20 years, she would brighten a dozen game shows, winning 11 of them. She loved games… card games, board games, trivia, charades---you name it, she would joyfully play with you.

Kris and Dennis shared a love of travel, and together they roamed every corner of this amazing planet. Recent favorites included drives around Iceland and Ireland, and a Norway cruise. Locally, they visited Sequoia National Park several times a year, hiking its spectacular trails, and also enjoyed many Las Vegas weekends.

Kris also loved the movies…if you were looking to win an Oscar pool, she was the girl to know, routinely picking all but 3 or 4 of the 20 or more winners.

When not traveling, they would spend the weekends going to movies. On a good year, the handholding cinephiles would see almost 200 movies in the theater. It was a movie household. She worked at Orion Pictures for years, and Dennis worked long hours behind the camera doing visual effects for feature films.

After she stopped working, she concentrated her energy on the things she loved. She would work out six days a week, three or four hours at a time… She enjoyed her gym family and would gather with them often. Kris loved her many friends and would joyfully add that special spark to every celebration.

On four occasions, she showcased her water skills by braving the frigid waters of the San Francisco Bay to swim the choppy 2 miles from Alcatraz in the Shark Fest competition. She thoroughly loved the water.

Then, after a months-long issue with back pain and weight loss, she was diagnosed with the cancer multiple myeloma or as she came to call it: Zydoma. In 2009, that meant about a five-year survival rate. But Kris would consistently defy the odds with her steely grit, determination and the exceptional care from the medical professionals at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles.

After a stem cell transplant and the grueling recuperation, Kris enjoyed 7 cancer-free years. During this time she continued her full-to-the-brim life with friends, movies, letters, lunches, gatherings and travel.

Her favorite way of getting around LA was on her trusty bicycle with it's many baskets. For longer journeys she would hop on her Honda rebel motorcycle--which she won, of course, on a game show--and zip around and through the inching gridlock that is LA.

After falling out of remission in 2016, a new drug treatment with its several side effects bought her another 3 years, which meant more travel and time with friends. By 2019, the cumulative effects of the cancer and the drugs required that she undergo 3 joint replacements, 2 hips and a knee, over a 10-month period. For a mere mortal, that would be impossible, but Kris was an iron-willed warrior. The grit and determination she showed in enduring the painful road back to mobility was indeed remarkable. But the miracle that was Kris manifested itself in her unwavering display of that trademark smile throughout the grueling recoveries. The challenges continued over the next 3 years as Kris endured 9 more treatments for her unrelenting cancer. These included chemo, tough drugs, and radiation, resulting in a multitude of infusions, infections, injections, and weeks in and out of the hospital. Throughout it all, as the toll on her battered body multiplied, she bravely displayed that signature smile and a ready compliment to all around her.

When the nerve damage left her unable to get around without a walker, she adjusted her life to one thoroughly involved in staying in touch with her friends and family. She continued her lifetime joy of sending letters and cards celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and just because. These she filled with pictures and articles and maybe a little confetti… but only big confetti because the small stuff is just annoying.

Then, when a long-planned and now completely impractical cruise seemed destined to be canceled, Kris insisted on one last go at adventure. This shark swimming, skydiving and bungee jumping motorcycle mama was not to be denied, and her 3-week bite of life went off without a hitch.

The final months were hard. Side effects mounted, and bad days outnumbered the good. But through it all, and to her last day, at Cedars-Sinai, Kris defiantly displayed that smile...not in spite of the pain but splashing from the brimming reservoir of joy that we were all so lucky to have wash over us throughout the many happy days of knowing this one of a kind woman, warrior and truly great friend.

Her husband, who enjoyed the 40-year gift of Kris, will forever miss her heart, her hand, that laugh and the endlessly wondrous world in her smile.

Sweet Sunshine, we will love you . . .always.

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Mainly dry with some sunshine: The jet stream will move far enough to the north to result in dry weather Sunday and Monday. However, an atmospheric river similar to the last one will bring some wet weather Tuesday. Rainfall could be locally heavier with this system, especially Tuesday night, with the risk for flooding. Rainfall accumulations could range up to 2 inches in the L.A. Basin.

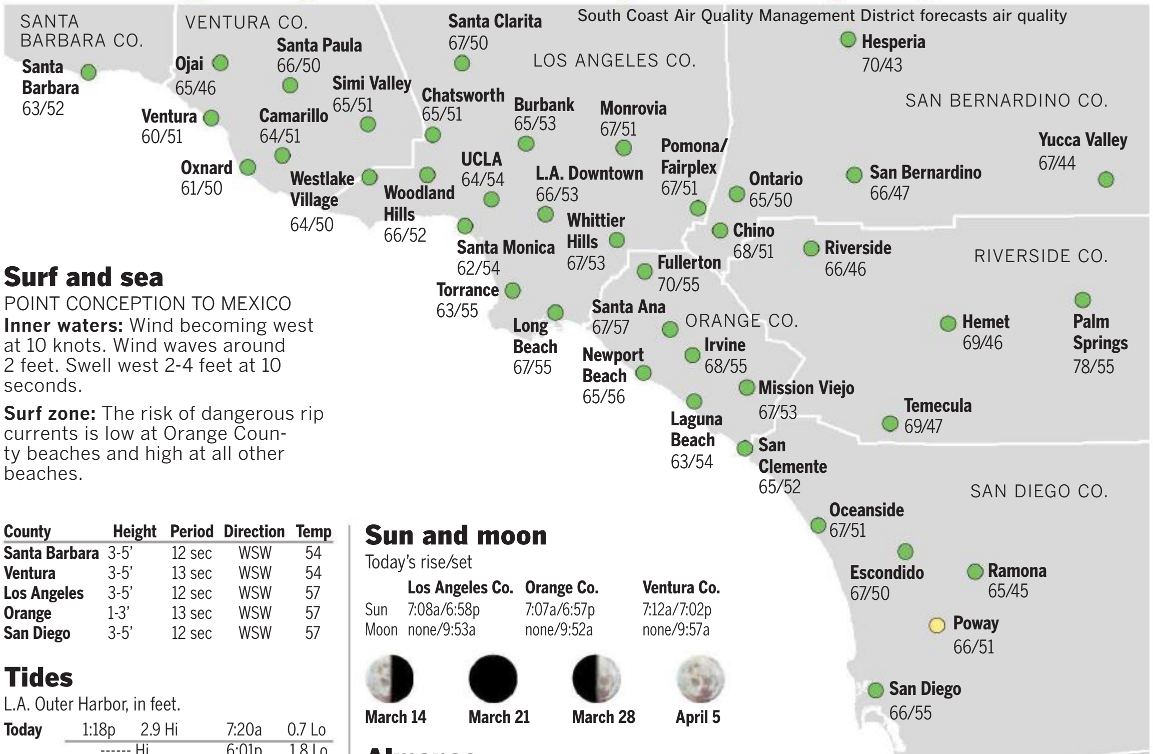
5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	66|53		65|52		62|54		51|31		78|55	
	Clouds clearing		Clouds clearing		Mostly cloudy		Windy		Mostly sunny	
Monday	Mostly cloudy	63/52	Clouds, sun	66/51	Mostly cloudy	62/53	Some sun	51/33	Mostly sunny	80/58
Tuesday	Rain	60/52	Rain	57/49	Rain	58/51	Low clouds	45/34	Cloudy	74/58
Wednesday	A shower	61/48	A shower	58/44	A shower	58/47	Mostly cloudy	45/24	Clouds, sun	76/53
Thursday	Some sun	65/50	High clouds	66/44	Mainly cloudy	61/48	Partly sunny	46/25	Partly sunny	80/55

Air quality

● Good ● Moderate Unhealthful for: ● Sensitive people ● All ○ Not Available



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind becoming west at 10 knots. Wind waves around 2 feet. Swell west 2-4 feet at 10 seconds.

Surf zone: The risk of dangerous rip currents is low at Orange County beaches and high at all other beaches.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	3-5'	12 sec	WSW	54
Ventura	3-5'	13 sec	WSW	54
Los Angeles	3-5'	12 sec	WSW	57
Orange	1-3'	13 sec	WSW	57
San Diego	3-5'	12 sec	WSW	57

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	1:18p	2.9 Hi	7:20a	0.7 Lo
	------	Hi	6:01p	1.8 Lo
Mon.	12:53a	4.9 Hi	8:41a	0.7 Lo
	3:13p	2.5 Hi	6:10p	2.3 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 45	Phoenix, 30
Los Angeles, 45	San Francisco, 60

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	7:08a/6:58p	7:07a/6:57p	7:12a/7:02p
Moon	none/9:53a	none/9:52a	none/9:57a

March 14 **March 21** **March 28** **April 5**

Almanac

Saturday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	64/57	66/59	60/54
Normal high/low	70/52	71/51	66/46
High/low a year ago	71/46	77/47	73/51
Record high/date	93/1916	97/2007	93/2007
Record low/date	38/2018	42/2010	36/1962

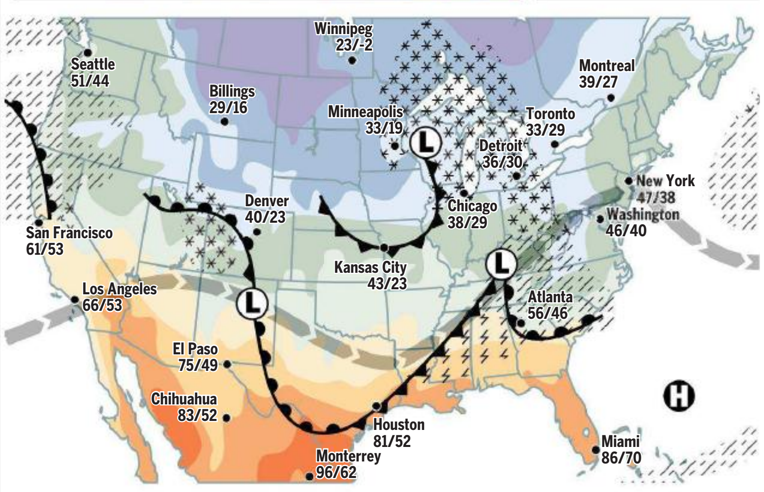
Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.23	0.25	0.10
Season total (since Oct. 1)	20.97	15.20	19.34
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	10.50	5.67	9.54
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	11.80	9.83	13.14
Humidity (high/low)	100/89	100/77	100/86

California cities

	Saturday			Today		Monday	
City	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Anaheim	66	56	.40	69	54	67	52
Avalon/Catalina	59	54	--	59	50	59	51
Bakersfield	61	57	.17	70	50	71	56
Barstow	73	51	.11	75	52	76	54
Big Bear Lake	46	42	.34	51	31	51	33
Bishop	56	39	.20	58	32	60	36
Burbank	63	54	.10	65	53	64	51
Camarillo	66	56	.12	64	51	66	54
Chatsworth	63	55	.45	65	51	65	51
Chino	65	55	.20	68	51	67	52
Compton	64	56	.36	67	54	66	52
Dana Point	60	57	.31	64	53	63	53
Death Valley	87	59	--	77	62	77	66
Del Mar	59	57	.97	62	51	61	53
Escondido	64	56	.82	67	50	68	47
Eureka	53	33	.02	57	51	55	48
Fallbrook	63	57	.68	67	49	67	49
Fresno	71	56	.02	67	51	71	56
Fullerton	66	59	.19	70	55	69	53
Hemet	63	53	.15	69	46	69	46
Hesperia	64	48	.10	70	43	68	49
Huntington Beach	65	58	.32	65	55	64	53
Idyllwild	48	40	1.03	54	39	55	44
Irvine	67	57	.15	68	55	68	52
L.A. D'ntown/USC	64	57	.18	66	53	63	52
L.A. Int'l. Airport	61	57	.25	63	54	63	52
Laguna Beach	63	58	.31	63	54	62	53
Lancaster	65	51	.06	68	47	70	49
Long Beach	66	60	.42	67	55	66	54
Mammoth Lakes	43	32	1.85	43	27	46	31
Mission Viejo	64	55	.23	67	53	65	53
Monrovia	62	54	.17	67	51	67	52
Monterey	65	50	.02	63	53	65	56
Mt. Wilson	45	41	--	45	40	43	41
Needles	81	56	.02	79	55	79	58
Newport Beach	58	55	.35	65	56	63	55
Northridge	60	53	.56	67	52	65	52
Oakland	59	47	Tr	61	53	64	54
Oceanside	64	58	.19	67	51	65	52
Ojai	67	52	.13	65	46	66	48
Ontario	64	55	.20	65	50	64	49
Palm Springs	84	57	--	78	55	80	58
Pasadena	63	54	--	65	52	64	52
Paso Robles	64	54	.01	63	49	64	51
Redding	50	39	.02	54	51	59	51
Riverside	66	54	.16	66	46	65	47
Sacramento	54	48	.19	61	51	64	55
San Bernardino	64	55	.64	66	47	65	50
San Diego	64	61	.85	66	55	67	55
San Francisco	63	47	.01	61	53	62	56
San Gabriel	xx	xx	--	67	53	65	52
San Jose	67	50	Tr	63	54	67	55
San Luis Obispo	61	57	Tr	64	52	63	52
Santa Ana	67	59	.11	67	57	66	55
Santa Barbara	63	56	.05	63	52	61	53
Santa Clarita	61	52	.08	67	50	66	51
Santa Monica Pier	63	57	--	62	54	62	53
Santa Paula	66	55	.16	66	50	64	52
Santa Rosa	53	43	.14	57	50	59	52
Simi Valley	65	54	.14	65	51	65	50
Tahoe Valley	40	33	.84	41	32	44	38
Temecula	64	56	.32	69	47	68	47
Thousand Oaks	63	54	.27	64	50	64	51
Torrance	63	57	--	63	55	61	53
UCLA	xx	xx	--	64	54	62	52
Van Nuys	66	57	.34	68	55	66	54
Ventura	60	54	.10	60	51	60	54
Whittier Hills	65	56	.20	67	53	65	53
Woodland Hills	65	54	--	66	52	65	51
Wrightwood	48	45	.13	55	40	54	43
Yorba Linda	62	56	.30	67	52	67	51
Yosemite Valley	49	35	2.40	48	37	51	41

Today in North America

Rain and snow in New England: A storm system will strengthen off the New Jersey coastline Monday and move into New England. This will bring a round of heavy coastal rain and wind, with upwards of 18 inches of snow at the highest elevations of New York State.



U.S. cities

SATURDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 99 in Cotulla, Texas

Low –7 in St. Mary, Mont.

	Saturday			Today		
City	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	41	28	.25	45	34	Pc
Albuquerque	67	50	--	61	38	Sh
Anchorage	30	18	--	26	24	Su
Aspen	39	28	.38	39	21	Sf
Atlanta	65	40	--	56	46	R
Austin	88	54	Tr	75	51	Pc
Baltimore	49	37	--	45	40	Su
Boise	51	33	Tr	48	40	Cy
Boston	38	37	.06	40	33	Su
Buffalo	33	27	.09	38	31	Sn
Burlington, Vt.	33	22	--	41	30	Cy
Charleston, S.C.	66	46	--	67	50	R
Charlotte	59	39	--	46	40	R
Chicago	39	32	Tr	38	29	Sn
Cincinnati	44	34	--	42	29	Cy
Cleveland	34	30	Tr	38	31	Sf
Columbia, S.C.	60	42	--	52	46	R
Columbus	41	31	Tr	40	29	R
Dallas/Ft.Worth	88	56	--	63	43	Pc
Denver	55	33	--	40	23	Su
Detroit	41	31	Tr	36	30	Sf
El Paso	78	59	--	75	49	Pc
Eugene	57	38	Tr	57	48	R
Fort Myers	86	70	.02	85	71	Su
Hartford	42	34	.30	50	34	Su
Honolulu	80	66	--	83	69	Pc
Houston	86	63	Tr	81	52	Pc
Indianapolis	46	33	Tr	43	27	Cy
Jacksonville, Fla.	76	50	--	82	64	Pc
Kansas City	39	33	.18	43	23	Pc
Knoxville	56	36	--	53	40	R
Las Vegas	74	60	--	70	51	Su
Louisville	50	38	--	48	32	Cy
Medford	57	28	--	56	46	Cy
Memphis	53	41	.05	54	37	Pc
Miami	86	69	--	86	70	Pc
Milwaukee	36	30	.01	37	30	Sn
Minneapolis	31	28	.18	33	19	Sn
Nashville	53	35	.01	54	35	Cy
New Orleans	82	62	--	85	56	W
New York	45	35	.72	47	38	Su
Norfolk	51	42	Tr	47	42	R
Oklahoma City	79	49	--	52	31	Pc
Omaha	35	29	.26	33	19	W
Orlando	82	67	Tr	87	67	Su
Philadelphia	45	38	.11	49	38	Su
Phoenix	78	62	--	80	55	Su
Pittsburgh	33	29	Tr	39	32	Cy
Portland, Ore.	54	40	Tr	48	45	R
Providence	38	35	.29	44	32	Su
Raleigh/Durham	56	42	--	41	38	R
Reno	46	33	.18	53	40	Pc
Richmond	52	39	--	44	39	Sh
St. Louis	44	32	.07	50	30	Pc
Salt Lake City	48	32	.26	47	38	Sh
Seattle	52	39	.15	51	44	R
Tampa	80	68	--	81	74	Su
Tucson	77	53	--	76	48	Su
Tulsa	61	43	Tr	52	30	Su
Washington, D.C.	50	39	--	46	40	Su
Wichita	56	41	Tr	50	24	Pc

World

City	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo	Sky
Acapulco	85	70	--	85	71	Su
Amsterdam	43	27	--	50	46	Sh
Athens	70	55	.02	67	49	R
Bangkok	93	81	--	94	77	Pc
Barcelona	79	65	--	66	52	Su
Berlin	38	32	.16	41	36	Sh
Cabo San Lucas	93	64	--	89	63	Su
Cairo	80	61	--	83	63	Su
Dubai	90	77	--	90	71	Su
Dublin	50	28	.52	55	50	R
Havana	86	61	--	88	66	Su
Ho Chi Minh City	91	73	--	93	72	Pc
Hong Kong	77	66	--	77	65	Cy
Istanbul	60	54	.34	53	43	R
Jerusalem	72	47	--	73	52	Su
Johannesburg	82	57	--	81	53	Ts
Kuala Lumpur	90	75	.90	88	75	Ts
Lima	83	71	.05	81	72	Hz
London	46	28	.03	57	51	Cy
Madrid	70	48	--	73	46	Pc
Mecca	96	71	.50	82	65	Cy
Mexico City	83	53	--	81	49	Cy
Montreal	37	23	--	39	27	Cy
Moscow	28	16	.39	44	20	R
Mumbai	100	76	--	99	81	Pc
New Delhi	88	66	--	90	68	Su
Paris	46	36	.16	58	53	Cy
Prague	40	32	.25	41	38	Sh
Rome	66	45	--	68	46	Su
Seoul	70	43	.07	45	23	R
Singapore	86	76	.02	87	75	R
Taipei City	79	64	--	79	54	Pc
Tokyo	64	49	--	64	58	Pc
Vancouver	48	37	.07	49	43	Sh
Vienna	47	39	--	48	38	Cy

Key: Su sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Saturday's readings as of 5 p.m.

Forecasts by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2023

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Keys to mental acuity? Healthy lifestyle, for one

[**Lopez,** from B1]

digital device in hand, but nailing Sudoku or reaching genius level in the Spelling Bee might not be as beneficial as you might think.

"Doing puzzles, in and of itself, will only improve how you do the puzzles," said Dr. Beau Ances, a Washington University professor who specializes in neurodegenerative disease. "I am not sure it improves long-term cognition."

Ances said he has patients who love the puzzles and he absolutely encourages them to keep at it; having a daily ritual you look forward to is beneficial in many ways. Galvan, for instance, told me it's good for his self-esteem when he conquers a puzzle.

One more benefit, Ances said, is that because some crosswords get harder as the week goes on, it's useful for a doctor to know that you used to make it to the end of the week but now lose your way by Wednesday or Thursday.

But don't count on it to ward off senility.

Debra Cherry, a clinical psychologist and executive vice president of Alzheimer's Los Angeles, said there's no strong evidence to support widespread faith in the value of word games and other brain enhancement products. In fact, her agency's website offers a warning:

"There is a lot of information available on the internet on the topic of keeping your brain healthy, but it is important to understand there is currently no proven way to absolutely prevent Alzheimer's or another dementia. Beware of anyone promising to do that."

Not that there isn't hope of breakthroughs, said Cherry, who highly recommends intellectual stimulation as one component of healthy living. But when it comes to activities that might improve acuity, she said, "the strongest evidence is for aerobic exercise."

MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

JAIRO ANGULO works on a Sudoku puzzle in his L.A. home. Exercise, a heart-healthy diet, social engagement, good sleep and general physical health were cited by specialists as important factors for mental acuity.

In fact, exercise, a heart-healthy diet, social engagement, good sleep habits and general physical health were cited by a half-dozen specialists I interviewed about keys to mental acuity.

"Everybody wants to say, 'Oh, if I do crossword puzzles, or oh, if I eat blueberries,'" said UC Irvine neuroscientist Dr. Claudia Kawas, who initiated a long-term study of Laguna Woods residents 90 and older. But "a healthy lifestyle involves physical and cognitive activities, period."

Dr. Scott Grafton, a UC Santa Barbara neuroscientist and author of "Physical Intelligence," says humans did not evolve in order to sit around playing word games. Going back 75,000 years, he said, they had to solve tough physical and social challenges to survive. Because of where we came from, a brisk off-trail walk in the woods is better for us than a stroll through a park, Grafton said, and "the cognitive challenge in the former drives brain health in profound ways."

Dr. Lon Schneider, a Keck School of Medicine of USC professor who serves on the Lancet Commission on dementia prevention, once told me that if I occasionally forget where I left my keys, there's no cause for concern unless I find them in the refrigerator. When I asked him about cognitive maintenance, he sent me a Lancet report that identified 12 risk factors for dementia.

The 12 are excessive alcohol consumption, head injury, exposure to air pollution, lack of education, hypertension, hearing impairment, smoking, obesity, depression, physical inactivity, diabetes and infrequent social contact.

So avoiding those things, to the extent possible, might be more helpful than mastering Sudoku.

But as we all know, medical science has a long history of changing its mind about what's good or bad for us, and there is no more mysterious organ in the body than the brain.

And although experts don't completely understand it, the ones I spoke to said that learning new things — such as music and language — might be helpful.

That's why I was particularly interested in an email from Michael Suttle, a Dana Point resident who shared a success story.

Back in 2010, when he was in his late 50s, Suttle, a software salesman, ocean swimmer and trumpet player, found himself forgetting phone numbers and appointments. It got so bad that he began writing down his daily schedule so he wouldn't miss meetings.

About four years later, he said, "I noticed a remarkable improvement in short-term memory and wondered why."

The improvement happened just as Suttle rededicated himself to music, practiced hard and won a seat in the newly formed Dana Point Symphony Orchestra. He also joined Symphony Irvine, and being a concert performer required him to learn difficult new music, including Beethoven's Fifth and Ninth symphonies, and Mahler's Third, Fourth and Fifth.

"Plus, the art of executing these onstage in front of a packed house requires a ton of concentration," said Suttle, who found that he no longer needed to write down his daily schedule.

I'd selfishly like to think it was the music that turned things around for Suttle, because I've been putting in time on my guitar and learning Spanish. But without large studies over long stretches, it's hard to reach strong conclusions about any of this. It might well be that for Suttle, having a specific goal and new social networks were as helpful to him as playing the music.

Daniel Levitin, a musician and neuroscientist who pooh-poohs the benefits of word games in his book "Successful Aging," told me it's a little easier to make a case for music. When I told him about Suttle, Levitin — who also wrote "This Is Your Brain on Music" — said it's likely that decoding music he'd never played before was key, challenging his fingers to process complex signals from his brain.

"There is some possibility that physical and mental tasks in tandem are beneficial," Levitin said. "You cannot make a musical sound without moving something," and this taxes the brain in ways that create "new layers of connectivity." You won't "stave off Alzheimer's," Levitin said, but you might "stave off the noticeable effects of it."

One more argument for the benefits of music comes from a small short-term memory study that tested adults between 60 and 80. Theodore Zanto, director of the UC San Francisco Neuroscape's Neuroscience Division, told me that 20 participants played a word search game for 20 minutes each day on a tablet, and 20 more played a game that required them to remember and repeat a musical rhythm.

Participants did a digital facial recognition test before and after, taxing their short-term memory skills. After the eight weeks of games, the word search group showed no improvement, but the music group showed a 4% improvement.

"It's not a whopping change," said Zanto, but it suggests "maybe you can get a bit of an edge" through music.

Or through other tasks that challenge the mind or muscle.

"We push kids to learn things all the time, but we don't push ourselves at the other end," said Kawas. "I don't think it's about any particular activity, but the more the brain is challenged, probably the better it is."

So if you have a favorite puzzle, keep playing. But when you get pretty good, step up to the next challenge, and it's never too late to learn an instrument or new language.

steve.lopez@latimes.com

Los Angeles Times D
††
SPORTS
SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

KADE WEST at home in Long Beach, where he turned to basketball after the death of his mother. His appearance in a game for Cerritos College was ruled a violation, costing the team.

IN AND OUT HEARTBREAK

Basketball saved West, but a rules issue took it away from deaf player

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

WEST works with interpreter Antonio Beltran, right, and coach Russ May.

BILL PLASCHKE

"Put him in, coach!"

With barely a minute remaining in a blowout of Porterville College in mid-December, Cerritos College basketball coach Russ May was faced with a heart-tugging dilemma.

"C'mon coach, let him play!"

Sitting at the end of his bench was Kade West, a 20-year-old who is deaf and autistic. His hands were folded in prayer. He was silently pleading to play in his first game.

West had been hanging around the fringes of the junior college team for more than a year, trying to impress, hoping to belong, shooting countless shots each day at a rickety basket in the alley behind his house, showing up for every practice at the Cerritos gym and playing until it had emptied.

May was so awed by his resilient effort that he added West to this season's roster to serve as a

[See **Plaschke,** D7]

Bruins fall just short of statement win

Campbell misses late free throw, streak ends as Wildcats capture Pac-12 tournament.

NO. 8 ARIZONA 61
NO. 2 UCLA 59

BY BEN BOLCH

LAS VEGAS — UCLA did not come here to just give it a good try.

Their best defender back home, their top big man watching in a sweatsuit, the Bruins did not back down Saturday night at T-Mobile Arena while severely undermanned in a heavyweight title fight.

They just finally ran out of counterpunches in the Pac-12 tournament championship.

A wild game came down to a mad scramble of a finish. Arizona's Azuolas Tubelis pushed his team into a two-point lead by making the first of two free throws with 5.8 seconds left before missing the second.

UCLA's Jaime Jaquez Jr. grabbed the rebound and dribbled frantically downcourt before passing to freshman guard Dylan Andrews on the wing. Andrews rose for a three-pointer that caromed off the side of the rim at the buzzer, preserving the second-seeded Wildcats' 61-59 victory over the top-seeded Bruins, whose 12-game winning streak came to an end.

"Wide-open shot to win the game," UCLA coach Mick Cronin said afterward. "It is what it is."

Eighth-ranked Arizona's players lingered to celebrate their second consecutive title-game triumph over UCLA (29-5), while the No. 2 Bruins pondered where they might be seeded in the NCAA tournament.

Even massively shorthanded, the Bruins had every opportunity to pull this one off.

Given a chance to tie the score with 6.8 seconds left, Bruins point guard Tyger Campbell, an 84.9% free-throw shooter who had been so clutch all week, missed the second of two free

[See **UCLA,** D6]

CHASE STEVENS Associated Press

JAIME JAQUEZ JR. of UCLA couldn't get much going against Azuolas Tubelis (10) and the Wildcats.

Clippers turn on defense system

They clamp down on Knicks as Leonard scores 38 points to fuel third straight win.

CLIPPERS 106
NEW YORK 95

BY BRODERICK TURNER

They are starting to build momentum again, each win by the Clippers a little more impressive than the previous.

Along the way, Kawhi Leonard and Paul George are showing why they are one of the NBA's top duos and the reason the Clippers are still holding championship aspirations.

Leonard was outstanding again, scoring 38 points, his left-handed dunk late in the fourth quarter the finishing touch on the Clippers' 106-95 win over the New York Knicks on Saturday afternoon at Crypto.com Arena.

Paul George was masterful with 22 points, eight points, eight assists and a plus-21 in the plus-minus category.

"I think the biggest thing is defensively," Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said. "I think those two guys locking into the other team's best player and taking that challenge, and so when they are playing at a high level defensively, we're a different team.

"I thought we did a good job taking care of the basketball and only 10 turnovers tonight. We got Kawhi out. He played the whole third quarter. To start the fourth, I thought PG really came in and offensively just kind of took over that game and kind of give us a good cushion."

The Clippers won their third consecutive game, their longest winning streak since they won five consecutive games from Jan. 20-28.

The Clippers have come a long way from the team that

[See **Clippers,** D8]

'Trying to make her proud'

Dodgers' Freeman plays for Canada to honor mom

BY JACK HARRIS

PHOENIX — Freddie Freeman isn't sure of the exact moment the transformation happened, when baseball went from being an escape from his biggest childhood trauma to a way he could honor the memory of his late mother.

There were points early in his career that he felt it, when the future MVP and World Series champion began establishing himself in the major leagues.

It was reinforced during any number of trips in the 13 seasons since, when he and his father, Fred, would reminisce and wonder what she would make of their baseball-centric lives.

As Freeman matured and started a family, the need to honor her legacy only strengthened within him.

After years of keeping private mementos to remember her — like wearing a cross around his neck, or getting the initials RJF stitched inside his mitt — he started thinking of more prominent ways his mom could be memorialized.

[See **Freeman,** D4]

ASHLEY LANDIS Associated Press

FREDDIE FREEMAN is playing for Canada in the WBC to honor his mother, who died in 2000.

NCAA probe by FBI stained by lead agent

A high-profile investigation into college basketball is hindered by a wild weekend in Vegas. **A1**

Taking stock of Rams, Chargers

Beat writers Gary Klein and Jeff Miller evaluate the rosters as free-agency period begins this week. **D5**

Sophomore leads title win

Nikolas Khamenia is the surprise hero of Studio City Harvard-Westlake's victory over Santa Maria St. Joseph. **D6**

BNP PARIBAS OPEN
MARCH 8-19
INDIAN WELLS
TENNIS CHANNEL
tennischannel.com

PRO CALENDAR

	SUN 12	MON 13	TUE 14	WED 15	THU 16
LAKERS	NEW YORK 6 ESPN, SpecSN		at New Orleans 5 SpecSN	at Houston 5 SpecSN	
CLIPPERS				GOLDEN STATE 7 ESPN, BSSC	
KINGS			N.Y. ISLANDERS 7:30 BSW		COLUMBUS 7:30 BSW
DUCKS	NASHVILLE 6:30 BSSC			N.Y. ISLANDERS 7 BSW	
GALAXY	MARCH 18: VANCOUVER, 7:30, APPLE TV				
LAFC	NEW ENGLAND 7:30 Apple TV			ALAJUELENSE ** 7:30	

DODGERS: Today at Cincinnati (Goodyear), 1 p.m., SNLA, AM 570*
ANGELS: Today at Chicago White Sox (Glendale), 1 p.m., BSW, AM 830*

Shade denotes home game. *Spring training in Arizona **CONCACAF Champions League

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
AUTO RACING		
9 a.m.	Drag Racing, NHRA Gatornationals	**TV:** 11
12:30 p.m.	NASCAR, Cup Series, United Rentals Work United 500	**TV:** 11
WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC		
4 a.m.	Netherlands vs. Italy	**TV:** FS2
9 a.m.	Nicaragua vs. Israel	**TV:** FS2, FOXD
1 p.m.	Britain vs. Canada	**TV:** FS1, FOXD
4 p.m.	Venezuela vs. Puerto Rico	**TV:** FS1, FOXD
7 p.m.	Mexico vs. U.S.	**TV:** FS1, FOXD
8 p.m.	Australia vs. Czech Republic	**TV:** FS2
BASEBALL: SPRING EXHIBITIONS		
10 a.m.	Tampa Bay vs. New York Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla.	**TV:** MLB
1 p.m.	Angels vs. Chicago White Sox at Phoenix	**TV:** BSW **R:** 830
1 p.m.	Dodgers vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz.	**TV:** SNLA **R:** 570, 1020
1 p.m.	Milwaukee vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz.	**TV:** MLB
BASKETBALL		
1:30 p.m.	G League, Ignite at Texas	**TV:** NBA
6 p.m.	New York at Lakers	**TV:** SpecSN, ESPN, ESPND **R:** 710, 1330
COLLEGE GYMNASTICS		
1 p.m.	Nebraska at Illinois	**TV:** Big Ten
COLLEGE BASKETBALL: CONFERENCE TOURNAMENTS		
9 a.m.	Ivy League, Yale vs. Princeton	**TV:** ESPN2
9 a.m.	Patriot League women, Holy Cross vs. Boston U.	**TV:** CBSSN
9 a.m.	NEC women, Sacred Heart vs. Fairleigh Dickinson	**TV:** ESPNU
10 a.m.	Atlantic 10, Dayton vs. Virginia Commonwealth	**TV:** 2
10 a.m.	Southeastern, Alabama vs. Texas A&M	**TV:** ESPN
11 a.m.	Big 12 women, Iowa State vs. Texas	**TV:** ESPN2
11 a.m.	CCA women, Towson vs. Monmouth	**TV:** CBSSN
11 a.m.	Missouri Valley women, Drake vs. Belmont	**TV:** ESPNU
12:15 p.m.	American Athletic, Houston vs. Memphis	**TV:** ESPN
12:30 p.m.	Big Ten, Purdue vs. Penn State	**TV:** 2
3 p.m.	NCAA Tournament Selection Show	**TV:** 2
4 p.m.	March Madness Bracket Breakdown	**TV:** CBSSN
5 p.m.	NCAA Women's Selection Special	**TV:** ESPN
7 p.m.	Bracketology: Field of 136	**TV:** ESPN2
COLLEGE SOFTBALL		
9 a.m.	Mississippi at Tennessee	**TV:** SEC
11 a.m.	Kentucky at Missouri	**TV:** SEC
Noon	Oregon at Washington	**TV:** Pac-12
1 p.m.	Louisiana State at South Carolina	**TV:** SEC
1 p.m.	Georgia Tech at Virginia	**TV:** ACC
2 p.m.	Arizona at Arizona State	**TV:** Pac-12
CYCLING		
5 a.m.	UCI World Tour, Paris to Nice, Stage 8	**TV:** CNBC
GOLF		
10 a.m.	The Players Championship, final round	**TV:** 4
HOCKEY		
10:30 a.m.	Boston at Detroit	**TV:** TNT
1 p.m.	New York Rangers at Pittsburgh	**TV:** TNT
4 p.m.	Vegas at St. Louis	**TV:** NHL
6:30 p.m.	Nashville at Ducks	**TV:** BSSC **R:** Ducks Stream
HORSE RACING		
Noon	America's Day at the Races	**TV:**FS2
PRO FOOTBALL		
1 p.m.	XFL, Arlington at St. Louis	**TV:** ESPN2
4 p.m.	XFL, Vegas at D.C.	**TV:** ESPN
RUGBY		
8 a.m.	Six Nations Series, Scotland vs. Ireland	**TV:** CNBC
SOCCER		
5 a.m.	France, Lens at Clermont	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
5:30 a.m.	England, women, Manchester United at Chelsea	**TV:** CBSSN
6 a.m.	Spain, Real Sociedad at Mallorca	**TV:** ESPND
7 a.m.	England, Aston Villa at West Ham United	**TV:** USA
7 a.m.	France, Nice and Nantes	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
8:15 a.m.	Spain, Almeria at Sevilla	**TV:** ESPND
9 a.m.	England, Wolverhampton at Newcastle	**TV:** USA, KVEA
9 a.m.	France, Reims at Monaco	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
10:30 a.m.	Spain, Real Betis at Villarreal	**TV:** ESPND
10:30 a.m.	Mexico, Mazatlan at Toluca	**R:** 1330
11 a.m.	Portugal, Benfica at Maritimo	**TV:** GOLTV
12:45 p.m.	France, Strasbourg at Marseille	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
1 p.m.	Spain, Barcelona at Atletico Club	**TV:** ESPND
1:30 p.m.	Portugal, Boavista at Sporting CP	**TV:** GOLTV
4 p.m.	Mexico, Monterrey at Pachuca	**TV:** TUDN
5 p.m.	Ecuador, Tecnico at Emelec	**TV:** GOLTV
6 p.m.	Mexico, Tijuana at Santos Laguna	**TV:** TUDN
7:30 p.m.	MLS, New England at LAFC	**TV:** Apple TV **R:** 980
TENNIS		
11 a.m.	BNP Paribas Open, third round	**TV:** BSSC, Tennis
7 p.m.	BNP Paribas Open, third round	**TV:** Tennis

latimes.com/sports

GYMNASTICS

UCLA's Chiles dominates

Staff writer Thuc Nhi Nguyen offers a full report on Jordan Chiles' posting of the top all-around score in the country this season. UCLA defeated Iowa State at Pauley Pavilion.

LETTERS

Can Clippers right their ship?

DAVID ZALUBOWSKI Associated Press

KAWHI LEONARD and the Clippers had trouble after the trade deadline and seek to get back on track.

Paul George is a superb basketball player and a seemingly wonderful guy, but like LeBron James, he is a horrible general manager.

All the Clippers needed to add at the trade deadline was a solid backup center, which they accomplished by acquiring Mason Plumlee. However, they didn't need the other three guys they got, and Coach Lue seems to have no idea how to get chemistry with these additional players on the squad.

HARLEY FRANKEL
Santa Monica

::

Watching the Philadelphia 76ers and the success they are having makes me wonder if the Clippers weren't a little too eager to get rid of Doc Rivers. He's got the Philadelphia team super motivated. Congratulations, Doc.

PATRICK KELLEY
Los Angeles

::

Kawhi are the Clippers such a middling team? Kawhi did they trade so much for Paul George (see Shai Gilgeous-Alexander)?

Kawhi did they trade a top-flight shooter when their system covets shooters (see Luke Kennard)?

Kawhi doesn't this team have a leader?

Kawhi aren't the Clippers going to make an impact in the playoffs?

The answers must be there, somewhere.

KEN VERMILLION
Santa Barbara

March badness

Joe Lunardi doesn't even try to hide his disdain for Pac-12 basketball teams. When UCLA was on the outside looking in at a No. 1 seed he could be heard on TV saying that conference tournaments have very little effect on seeding in the national tournament, effectively barring UCLA from a way in. But flash forward, after a couple of projected No. 1 seeds lost and UCLA moved up, he is suddenly saying to The Times that UCLA must win its conference tournament to keep its No. 1 seed. Lunardi has the hypocrisy of a seasoned politician.

ALAN ABAJIAN
Alta Loma

::

Given their lackluster performance against Arizona State, even if the Trojans make the NCAA tournament they will probably be a "one and done" just like they were in the Pac-12 tournament. Trojan fans deserve better from this talented yet underachieving team.

KEN BLAKE
Brea

::

Bruins basketball fans rejoice! After easily dispensing of the Arizona schools last week, and handily taking care of business in the Pac-12 tournament, it looks like we're on our way to bigger and better things. Our No. 2 national ranking is no fluke. And our No. 1 seeding will be well-earned, too. Bring on the Madness!

MARTY ZWEBEN
Palos Verdes Estates

Crowning moment?

Well, it looks like Lincoln Riley and The Times have decided the Trojans will go undefeated and win the Pac-12 championship. Ah, what the heck, let's play the games.

RALPH S. BRAX
Lancaster

Pause that thought

I'd be opposed to any rule changes to hasten the pace of play if Vin Scully still had the calls, because whenever he invited us to "pull up a chair" it was with our implicit understanding there'd be no pitch clock and the games might slow to a slog (or so we hoped), enabling him to pepper his play-by-play calls with indelible anecdotes we recalled long past the final out. After all, never once did we hear Vinny proclaim: "It's less time for Dodger baseball!"

STEVE ROSS
Carmel

::

I'm not thrilled by the new MLB pitch clock. How am I going to go grab a beer while the visiting team is batting, and be back in time before the Dodgers are up?

JOE KEVANY
Mount Washington

Gasol the great

I own two Pau Gasol jerseys and applaud the Big Spaniard having his uniform number retired. However, for Bill Plaschke to state "he [Gasol] was Kobe Bryant's greatest teammate" is hyperbole at its finest.

KEN FELDMAN
Tarzana

::

The Pau Gasol jersey retirement ceremony was one of the most heart-wrenching yet finest ceremonies I have ever witnessed. Gasol brought such incredible joy to all Lakers fans during his career, it was only right that we were able to return that joy to him.

GENO APICELLA
Placentia

Coverage issues

Not surprisingly, in the March 5 edition, I had to rummage through four pages of other sports news to find the USC-ASU results on D5. Just another example of USC basketball receiving obscure coverage.

DAVID MARSHALL
Santa Monica

::

Last week there was a tourney involving all Pac-12 beach volleyball teams. Zero overage from The Times! USC beat UCLA by one game after all the matches were played. If USC was playing football, basketball or in a track meet then they would have gotten a mention in The Times. UCLA was ranked No. 1 in national polls with USC ranked fourth. Come on, these gals work just as hard as any football or basketball player for their craft. Let's celebrate their achievements. USC is the reigning NCAA beach volleyball champion.

SUSAN HAMILTON
Westlake Village

Bold beginning

The Annual Achievement in Alliteration Award goes to the headline, "Bailey's breakout barrage bouys Bruins in comeback."

BRIAN GOTTA
San Diego

Worthy of a reprint

Do Kings fans a favor and make a high-quality, full-color reprint of the stunning illustration celebrating the career of Jonathan Quick available for purchase or even a full-page reprint in the paper. Just great work. And also the piece by Helene Elliott was so thoughtful, so well done.

RICHARD DERK
Thousand Oaks

::

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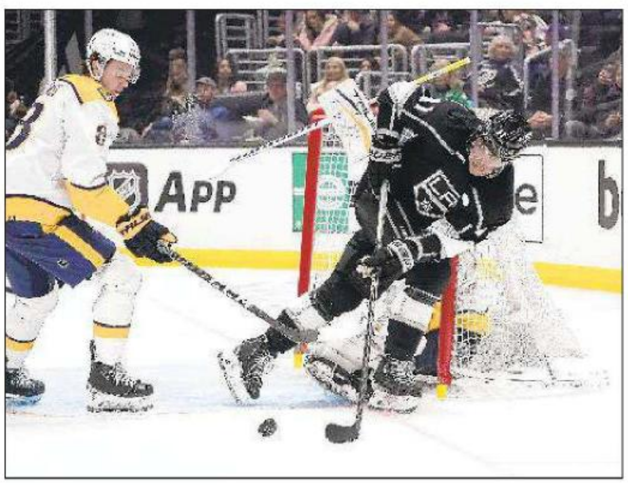


MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ Associated Press

ANZE KOPITAR reaches for the puck next to Predators center Cody Glass at Crypto.com Arena.

Predators put stop to Kings' streak

Lankinen denies all three shootout tries as L.A. has winning run end at five games.

NASHVILLE 2
KINGS 1 (SO)

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Matt Duchene scored in the second round of the shootout and the Nashville Predators stopped the Kings' five-game winning streak with a 2-1 victory Saturday night.

Duchene, who scored his 27th shootout goal in 71 chances, put a shot between Pheonix Copley's legs for the only score in the tiebreaker.

Tommy Novak scored for the Predators and Kevin Lankinen made 26 saves.

Mikey Anderson had the Kings' goal, and Copley stopped 30 shots.

Anderson opened the scoring at 9:32 of the first period when he took the pass from Gabriel Vilardi in the slot and beat Lankinen on his glove side with a snap shot. It was the defenseman's fourth goal of the season and second in the past three games.

Nashville evened it on the power play with 55.2 seconds remaining in the first when Novak scored from high in the slot while Copley was being screened. The goal made Novak the sixth Nashville player with 10 or more goals this season.

Nashville's Philip Tomasino had the best opportunity in overtime but whiffed on the shot in front of the net.

Fiala sits out

Kings forward Kevin Fiala missed the game because of a lower-body injury. L.A.'s leading scorer left Thursday's game after a knee-on-knee hit.

PREDATORS 2, KINGS 1, SO

Nashville	1	0	0	0	– 2
KINGS	1	0	0	0	– 1

FIRST PERIOD—1. KINGS, Anderson 4 (Vilardi, Iafallo), 9:32. 2. Nashville, Novak 10 (Glass), 19:04 (pp). **Penalties**—Fabbro, NSH (Roughing), 13:23; Iafallo, KINGS (Tripping), 19:00.

SECOND PERIOD—Scoring: None. **Penalti**y—Josi, NSH (Holding), 4:20.

THIRD PERIOD—Scoring: None. **Penaltie**s—Roy, KINGS (Boarding), 5:53; Sherwood, NSH (Roughing), 5:53; Kempe, KINGS (Illegal Equipment), 13:20; Trenin, NSH (Tripping), 17:23.

OVERTIME—Scoring: None. **Penalties**—None.

SHOOTOUT—Nashville 1 (Duchene G, Tomasino NG), KINGS geles 0 (Vilardi NG, Kempe NG, Arvidsson NG).

SHOTS ON GOAL—Nashville 10-8-7-5—30. KINGS 10-6-8-3—27. Power-play conversions—Nashville 1 of 2; KINGS 0 of 3. GOALIES—Nashville, Lankinen 8-5-1 (27 shots-26 saves). KINGS, Copley 20-4-3 (30-29). A—18,230 (18,230). T—2:35.

NHL STANDINGS

Sixteen teams qualify for the Stanley Cup playoffs. The format is a set bracket that is largely division-based with wild cards. The top three teams in each division will make up the first 12 teams in the playoffs. The remaining four spots will be filled by the next two highest-placed finishers in each conference, based on regular-season record, and regardless of division.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	40	20	6	86	212	182
KINGS	38	20	9	85	228	221
Seattle	37	22	7	81	232	211
Edmonton	36	23	8	80	258	228
Calgary	29	24	13	71	204	204
Vancouver	28	32	5	61	222	253
DUCKS	22	35	9	53	168	266
San Jose	19	36	12	50	193	257
Central	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Dallas	36	17	13	85	229	178
Minnesota	38	21	7	83	191	173
Colorado	36	22	6	78	206	181
Winnipeg	37	26	3	77	207	187
Nashville	32	24	7	71	181	185
St. Louis	29	31	5	63	202	237
Arizona	23	32	11	57	183	233
Chicago	22	38	6	50	165	236

Note: Overtime or shootout losses worth one point.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Metropolitan	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	43	13	8	94	217	162
New Jersey	43	16	6	92	232	177
NY Rangers	37	19	9	83	215	183
Pittsburgh	33	22	10	76	214	208
NY Islanders	34	26	8	76	196	187
Washington	32	28	7	71	208	200
Philadelphia	24	31	11	59	169	217
Columbus	20	38	7	47	169	244
Atlantic	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
x-Boston	50	9	5	105	242	137
Toronto	40	17	8	88	223	175
Tampa Bay	39	21	6	84	231	203
Florida	33	27	7	73	229	226
Ottawa	33	28	4	70	206	207
Buffalo	32	28	5	69	238	236
Detroit	29	27	9	67	194	214
Montreal	26	34	6	58	180	236

RESULTS

NASHVILLE 2 AT KINGS 1 (SO)	Mikey Anderson had the Kings' lone goal and Pheonix Copley stopped 30 shots but L.A. fell in a shootout.
AT BOSTON 3 DETROIT 2	The Bruins rallied from a 2-0 deficit to become the fastest team in NHL history to reach 50 wins.
AT PITTSBURGH 5 PHILADELPHIA 1	Sidney Crosby scored a go-ahead power-play goal and Penguins coach Mike Sullivan recorded his 400th victory.
N.Y. RANGERS 2 AT BUFFALO 1 (OT)	Artemi Panarin converted a blocked shot to score a power-play goal 2:02 into overtime to lift the Rangers.
AT COLORADO 3 ARIZONA 2 (OT)	Cale Makar's highlight-reel backhand won it and Nathan MacKinnon scored in his ninth straight home game.
AT TAMPA BAY 3 CHICAGO 1	Brayden Point scored his second goal of the game with a minute left but the Lightning lost Steven Stamkos.
AT TORONTO 7 EDMONTON 4	John Tavares scored twice and Mitch Marner had four points for Toronto. Connor McDavid scored his 55th goal.
NEW JERSEY 3 AT MONTREAL 1	Nico Hischier had a goal and an assist in the Devils' sixth win in eight games. The Canadiens have lost six in a row.
ST. LOUIS 5 AT COLUMBUS 2	Jordan Kyrou got a hat trick and goalie Thomas Greiss stopped 38 shots in just his fourth game since Jan. 26.
VEGAS 4 AT CAROLINA 0	Jonathan Quick recorded his first shutout with the Golden Knights with 33 saves and improved to 3-0-0 with Vegas.
WINNIPEG 5 AT FLORIDA 4 (OT)	Mark Scheifele converted his own rebound for his second goal of the game in overtime to lift the slumping Jets.
WASHINGTON 5 AT N.Y. ISLANDERS 1	Dylan Strome and T.J. Oshie scored first-period goals and Darcy Kuemper made 17 saves for the surging Capitals.
DALLAS 4 AT SEATTLE 3 (OT)	Miro Heiskanen one-timed Max Domi's saucer pass in overtime to complete the Stars' late comeback win.
AT VANCOUVER 5 OTTAWA 2	Andrei Kuzmenko opened the scoring and sealed the Canucks' fourth straight win with an empty-net goal.
MINNESOTA 5 AT SAN JOSE 2	The Wild extended their point streak to 12 games after Marcus Johansson's goal 30 seconds into the third won it.

TODAY'S GAMES

Nashville at DUCKS, 6:30 p.m.	Boston at Detroit, 10:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.	Carolina at New Jersey, 4 p.m.
Vegas at St. Louis, 4 p.m.	Winnipeg at Tampa Bay, 4 p.m.
Ottawa at Calgary, 6 p.m.	Minnesota at Arizona, 6:30 p.m.

Bond makes 11 saves in Galaxy's scoreless draw

GALAXY 0
KANSAS CITY 0

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Sporting Kansas City still has yet to score a goal this season after a 0-0 draw with the Galaxy on Saturday night.

Sporting KC (0-1-2) peppered Galaxy goalkeeper Jonathan Bond with shots throughout the match but could not break through. Bond finished with 11 saves.

The Galaxy (0-1-1) opened their season with a 3-1 loss to Dallas. The team has been playing without Javier "Chicharito" Hernández because of a preseason hamstring injury.

Kansas City was without Alan Pulido, who is coming off knee surgery that sidelined him last season. He was listed as questionable going into the game.

Sporting KC lost to the Portland Timbers in its opener before a scoreless draw against the Colorado Rapids last weekend.

Kansas City is undefeated in its last five matches against the Galaxy. The two teams played to a 2-2 draw last September at Children's Mercy Park.

MLS

STANDINGS

WEST	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	3	1	0	8	8	1
St. Louis City SC	2	0	0	6	6	3
San Jose	2	1	0	5	5	4
FC Dallas	1	1	1	4	4	3
Minnesota United	1	0	1	4	2	1
Real Salt Lake	1	2	1	4	2	5
LAFC	1	0	0	3	3	2
Austin FC	1	1	0	3	3	3
Portland	1	1	0	3	3	3
Sporting Kansas City	0	1	3	3	0	1
Vancouver	0	3	1	1	4	7
GALAXY	0	1	1	1	1	3
Colorado	0	1	1	1	0	4
Houston	0	2	0	0	1	5
EAST	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Atlanta	2	0	1	7	6	2
Nashville	2	0	1	7	4	0
Cincinnati	2	0	1	7	3	1
New England	2	0	0	6	4	0
Inter Miami CF	2	1	0	6	4	1
Philadelphia	2	1	0	6	5	3
Orlando City	1	0	2	5	2	1
Columbus	1	1	1	4	4	5
D.C. United	1	1	1	4	4	5
New York City FC	1	1	1	4	2	3
Toronto FC	0	1	2	2	4	5
New York	0	1	2	2	1	2
Chicago	0	1	1	1	1	2
CF Montréal	0	3	0	0	0	5
Charlotte FC	0	3	0	0	1	7

Saturday's Results
GALAXY 0, Sporting Kansas City 0
Atlanta 3, Charlotte FC 0
FC Dallas 1, Vancouver 1
Cincinnati 1, Seattle 0
Orlando City 1, D.C. United 1
New York City FC 1, Miami 0
Philadelphia 1, Chicago 0
Columbus 1, Toronto FC 1
New York 1, Minnesota 1
Nashville 2, CF Montréal 0
Sporting Kansas City 0, Colorado 0
San Jose 2, Vancouver 1
Seattle 2, Real Salt Lake 0

SUMMARY
GALAXY 0, SPORTING KANSAS CITY 0

Galaxy	**0**	**0—0**
Sporting Kansas City	**0**	**0—0**

FIRST HALF—Scoring: None.
SECOND HALF—Scoring: None.
GOALIES—Galaxy, Jonathan Bond, Jonathan Klinsmann; Sporting Kansas City, John Pulskamp, Kendall Mcintosh.
Yellow cards—None.

Lineups:
Galaxy—Jonathan Bond; Martin Caceres, Kelvin Leerdam (Chris Mavinga, 67th), Jalen Neal; Efrain Alvarez (Tyler Boyd, 67th), Gaston Brugman, Marky Delgado, Riqui Puig, Memo Rodriguez (Daniel Aguirre, 81st); Raheem Edwards (Oriol Rosell, 90th+3), Dejan Joveljic (Preston Judd, 67th).
Sporting Kansas City—John Pulskamp; Andreu Fontas, Tim Leibold (Ben Sweat, 77th), Robert Voloder, Graham Zusi; Roger Espinoza (Nemanja Radoja, 67th), Erik Thommy, Remi Walter; William Agada, Daniel Salloi, Khiry Shelton (Marinos Tzionis, 63rd).

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Shiffrin captures record for wins

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Two minutes after earning her 87th career win, **Mikaela Shiffrin** finally understood the significance of setting the record for World Cup victories.

In the middle of the awards ceremony, a man in a red jacket unexpectedly stepped forward from the crowd and that was the moment Shiffrin first realized what it all meant to her.

It was her brother, **Taylor,** who secretly had flown in to Sweden and now came over to hug her.

"I've said it the whole time, I don't know how to define that," Shiffrin said about the record. "But when you have these special moments ... seeing my brother and [sister-in-law] **Kristi** and my mom [and coach, **Eileen**] in the finish today, that's what makes it memorable."

Shiffrin set the outright World Cup record for career victories by winning a slalom Saturday, breaking a tie with **Ingemar Stenmark** on the all-time list of men and women. The Swede competed in the 1970s and '80s.

"Pretty hard to comprehend," said Shiffrin, who crouched and rested her head on her knees after finishing the final run.

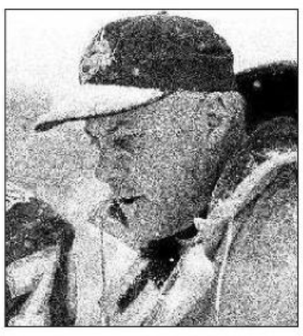
ETC.

Famed Vikings coach Grant dies

Bud Grant, the stoic and demanding Hall of Fame coach who took the Minnesota Vikings and their mighty Purple People Eaters defense to four Super Bowls in eight years and lost all of them, died. He was 95.

He guided the Vikings from 1967 to '85, with a one-year hiatus in 1984, on his way to a 158-96-5 record with 11 division championships in 18 seasons. He went 10-12 in the playoffs. When he retired, Grant was eighth on the all-time wins list.

Grant played football, basketball and baseball at the University of Minnesota, a nine-time letterman who was drafted by the NBA and NFL. He pursued basketball first, playing two seasons for the Minneapolis Lakers and winning a title with them in 1950. But it was football where Grant truly excelled, first for the Philadelphia Eagles. He was second in the NFL with 56 receptions and 997 yards in 1952, before a contract dispute steered him to the CFL, where he began his coaching career and won four titles.



ROBERT WALSH Associated Press

BUD GRANT coached the Minnesota Vikings to four Super Bowls in eight years and lost all of them.

New Orleans tight end **Juwan Johnson** agreed to a two-year extension.

Miami Heat guard **Kyle Lowry** returned against the Orlando Magic after missing more than a month with knee soreness. ... Milwaukee Bucks star **Giannis Antetokounmpo** (sore hand) missed his third straight game. ... New York Knicks' **Jalen Brunson** (sore foot) is out for Sunday's game at the Clippers.

The Washington Capitals re-signed defenseman **Trevor van Riemsdyk** to a three-year, $9-million contract.

Kyle Larson won the pole for the NASCAR Cup Series race at Phoenix Raceway on Sunday. ... **Sammy Smith** won the Xfinity Series race at Phoenix, the first victory for the 18-year-old high school student who is taking classes online so he can be a full-time driver.

Jordan Chiles' career-high 39.9 all-around score powered UCLA's gymnastics team to a season-best 198.275 in its win over Iowa State (195.55) in the Bruins' regular-season finale.

— THUC NHI NGUYEN

The Utah Royals will return next season as the National Women's Soccer League's 13th team. Utah played in the league from 2018 to 2020 before it folded and moved to Kansas City.

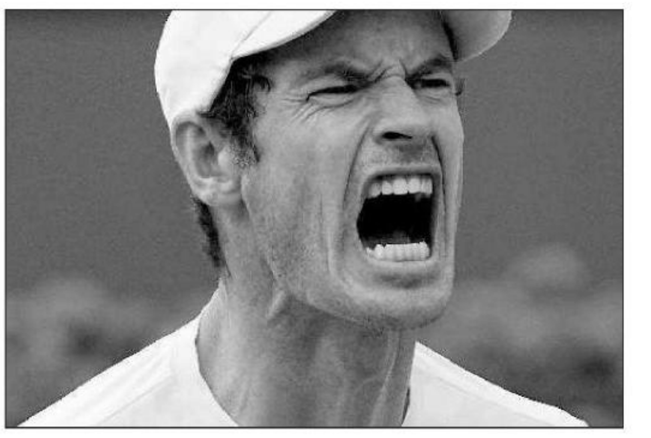
Tapit Trice rallied from last to win the $360,000 Tampa Bay Derby and a spot in the Kentucky Derby.

Photographs by MARK J. TERRILL Associated Press

IGA SWIATEK, the top women's singles player and defending champion, returns a shot to Claire Liu at the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells. "Tactically and tennis-wise, everything was on point," she said.

Swiatek dominates, Murray advances at BNP Paribas

ASSOCIATED PRESS



ANDY MURRAY shows some emotion after winning a set against Radu Albot during his 6-4, 6-3 victory.

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek routed Claire Liu in 65 minutes to win her opening match Saturday at the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells.

Swiatek, the defending champion who took over the No. 1 ranking nearly a year ago, won 6-0, 6-1. She lost just seven points in the first set.

"Tactically and tennis-wise, everything was on point," she said. "I had so many matches that were going my way in last couple of weeks that I know what to do."

Carlos Alcaraz, the second-ranked men's player, defeated qualifier Thanasi Kokkinakis, 6-3, 6-3. Alcaraz reached the semifinals in the desert last year and could return to the No. 1 spot for the first time since January if he wins the title.

Taylor Fritz, the defending men's champion, rallied past former NCAA singles champion Ben Shelton, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. Shelton's biggest serve reached 147 mph.

"I expected him to come out serving bombs, playing well," Fritz said. "I was ready for it, I just had to regroup, just find a way and problem solve. He's an incredible player and it was an extremely tough first match to come out and play, so I'm happy to get through it."

Andy Murray beat Radu Albot, 6-4, 6-3 in his first straight-set victory of the year to set up a third-round match with Jack Draper. Murray had just 18 unforced errors to 35 for Albot, and never faced a break point on his serve while firing six aces.

"Hopefully I can keep pushing myself up the rankings, keep building that confidence, and maybe get a few more straightforward draws, as well," Murray said.

Jannik Sinner defeated Richard Gasquet, 6-3, 7-6 (2). The 21-year-old Sinner fired 20 forehand winners against the 36-year-old veteran. "Obviously it was a tough match today, especially in the beginning I was a little bit tight," Sinner said.

Another 21-year-old, Draper, beat No. 24 Dan Evans, 6-4, 6-2. Draper has lost just eight games through his first two matches of his Indian Wells debut.

No. 10 Felix Auger-Aliassime reached the third round with a 7-6 (5), 6-4 win over Pedro Martinez.

Emma Raducanu, the 2021 U.S. Open champion, beat No. 20 Magda Linette, 7-6 (3), 6-2. Linette, a semifinalist at the Australian Open, got an early service break, but Raducanu jumped on her serve and tied it, 5-all, before forcing the tiebreaker.

"I was so pleased with the way I fought. Because Magda played at a really high level," Raducanu said. "Like some things that were working in the past weren't working today, and I adapted."

No. 5 Carolina Garcia outlasted Dalma Galfi, 6-1, 6-7 (4), 6-4. Eighth-seeded Daria Kasatkina beat Tatjana Maria, 6-2, 6-1.

Karolina Muchova beat two-time Indian Wells champion Victoria Azarenka, 7-6 (1), 6-3. Other seeded players joining Azarenka on the sidelines were No. 25 Petra Martic and No. 28 Marie Bouzkova.

TENNIS RESULTS

$8.8-MILLION BNP PARIBAS OPEN
At Indian Wells Tennis Garden
Surface: Hard-outdoor

MEN'S SINGLES (second round)—Jannik Sinner (11), Italy, d. Richard Gasquet, France, 6-3, 7-6 (2); Jack Draper, Britain, d. Daniel Evans (24), Britain, 6-4, 6-2; Felix Auger-Aliassime (8), Canada, d. Pedro Martinez, Spain, 7-6 (5), 6-4; Stan Wawrinka, Switzerland, d. Miomir Kecmanovic (26), Serbia, 7-6 (8), 6-4; Tommy Paul (17), d. Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, 6-3, 6-3; Alex Molcan, Slovakia, d. Borna Coric (18), Croatia, 6-3, 6-3; Marton Fucsovics, Hungary, d. Alex de Minaur (16), Australia, 6-4, 6-2; Andy Murray, Britain, d. Radu Albot, Moldova, 6-4, 6-3; Tallon Griekspoor (31), Netherlands, d. Guido Pella, Argentina, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4); Taylor Fritz (4), d. Ben Shelton, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3; Francisco Cerundolo (27), Argentina, d. Jack Sock, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Adrian Mannarino, France, d. Lorenzo Musetti (19), Italy, 6-4, 6-4; Hubert Hurkacz (9), Poland, d. Alexei Popyrin, Australia, 6-3, 6-3; Sebastian Baez (30), Argentina, d. Rinky Hijikata, Australia, 6-3, 6-1; Holger Rune (7), Denmark, d. Mackenzie McDonald, 7-5, 6-3; Carlos Alcaraz (1), Spain, d. Thanasi Kokkinakis, Australia, 6-3, 6-3.

WOMEN'S SINGLES (second round)—Varvara Gracheva, Russia, d. Petra Martic (25), Croatia, 6-3, 6-2; Marketa Vondrousova, Czech Republic, d. Marie Bouzkova (28), Czech Republic, 6-1, 6-1; Emma Raducanu, Britain, d. Magda Linette (20), Poland, 7-6 (3), 6-2; Karolina Muchova, Czech Republic, d. Victoria Azarenka (14), Belarus, 7-6 (1), 6-3; Iga Swiatek (1), Poland, d. Claire Liu, 6-0, 6-1; Leylah Annie Fernandez (30), Canada, d. Emma Navarro, United States, 6-2, 6-4; Beatriz Haddad Maia (13), Brazil, d. Katerina Siniakova, Czech Republic, 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-3; Bernarda Pera d. Liudmila Samsonova (12), Russia, 2-6, 7-6 (8), 7-6 (6); Daria Kasatkina (8), Russia, d. Tatjana Maria, Germany, 6-2, 6-1; Caroline Garcia (5), France, d. Dalma Galfi, Hungary, 6-1, 6-7 (4), 6-4; Elena Rybakina (10), Kazakhstan, d. Sofia Kenin, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (5); Martina Trevisan (23), Italy, d. Madison Brengle, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2; Bianca Andreescu (32), Canada, d. Peyton Stearns, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3; Ons Jabeur (4), Tunisia, d. Magdalena Frech, Poland, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1; Sorana Cirstea, Romania, d. Madison Keys (19), 6-1, retired; Paula Badosa (21), Spain, d. Nuria Parrizas Diaz, Spain, 6-2, 7-5.

MEN'S DOUBLES (first round)—Nikola Mektic-Mate Pavic (4), Croatia, d. Dominic Thiem, Austria-Casper Ruud, Norway, 6-3, 6-3; Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France-Santiago Gonzalez, Mexico, d. Nathaniel Lammons and Jackson Withrow, 7-5, 6-4; Harri Heliovaara, Finland-Lloyd Glasspool (5), Britain, d. Matwe Middelkoop-Botic Van de Zandschulp, Netherlands, 6-3, 3-6, 10-6; Marcos Giron and Jeffrey John Wolf d. Lorenzo Sonego-Jannik Sinner, Italy, 7-6 (4), 6-7 (7), 10-1.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES (first round)—Jessica Pegula and Coco Gauff (2), d. Marketa Vondrousova-Miriam Kolodziejova, Czech Republic, 7-6 (5), 6-2; Lyudmyla Kichenok, Ukraine-Jelena Ostapenko (3), Latvia, d. Elena-Gabriela Ruse, Romania-Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, 6-2, 6-3; Barbora Krejcikova-Katerina Siniakova (1), Czech Republic, d. Veronika Kudermetova-Liudmila Samsonova, Russia, 6-1, 6-2; Alexa Guarachi Mathison, Chile-Erin Routliffe, New Zealand, d. Xu Yifan and Zhaoxuan Yang (5), China, 6-1, 6-7 (6), 10-7.

GOLF

Scheffler leads Players by two shots

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLIE NEIBERGALL Associated Press

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER, watching his shot from the 18th fairway, fired a 65 in the third round. A tournament victory would send him back to No. 1 in the world.

Scottie Scheffler capped a long day of 26 holes with one last birdie Saturday that gave him a seven-under 65 and a two-shot lead at the Players Championship in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., with no one else from the top 10 in the world within seven shots of him.

That might not make the final round any easier given the nature of the TPC Sawgrass as it dries out from a rain that led to a delay.

Min Woo Lee, the younger brother of U.S. Women's Open champion Minjee Lee, stayed with Scheffler stride-for-stride after holing out from 131 yards on the opening hole. His only bogey came at the end with a three-putt bogey, giving him a 66.

Lee got into the Players Championship only two weeks ago when he narrowly stayed in the top 50 after the Honda Classic. Now he's in the final group with the Masters champion.

"Tomorrow could be the biggest day of my life, but I'm going to go out there and have fun again," Lee said

For Scheffler, who won this year in the Phoenix Open, a victory would send him back to No. 1 in the world.

"I would much rather win the tournament than get back to No. 1 in the world," said Scheffler, who was at 14-under 202. "So that will be my focus going into tomorrow, just going out and having a solid round of golf."

Jon Rahm, the current No. 1 and three-time winner this year, withdrew before the second round with a stomach ailment. Rory McIlroy at No. 3 missed the cut with rounds of 76-73.

Campillo takes lead

Jorge Campillo made eight birdies and finished with four in a row for a 63 to take the lead after three rounds of the European tour's Kenya Open.

The Spaniard moved to 13-under-par overall for the clubhouse lead and no one could overtake that early mark.

GOLF LEADERS

$25-MILLION THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP
At Ponte Vedra, Fla.—Par 72
TPC Sawgrass—7,275 yards
54-hole leaders

Scottie Scheffler	68-69-65—202	-14
Min Woo Lee	68-70-66—204	-12
Cameron Davis	69-70-67—206	-10
Christiaan Bezuidenhout	68-70-69—207	-9
Tommy Fleetwood	72-70-65—207	-9
Aaron Rai	73-69-65—207	-9
Chad Ramey	64-75-68—207	-9
Tom Hoge	78-68-62—208	-8
Sungjae Im	75-69-64—208	-8
David Lingmerth	72-68-68—208	-8
Denny McCarthy	68-72-69—209	-7
Taylor Montgomery	70-73-66—209	-7
Justin Rose	69-73-67—209	-7
Patrick Cantlay	72-70-68—210	-6
Jason Day	70-70-70—210	-6
Rickie Fowler	72-70-68—210	-6
Ben Griffin	67-71-72—210	-6
Adam Hadwin	71-70-69—210	-6
Viktor Hovland	69-71-70—210	-6
Taylor Moore	70-75-65—210	-6
Collin Morikawa	65-73-72—210	-6
Jordan Spieth	69-75-66—210	-6
Justin Suh	68-73-69—210	-6
Adam Svensson	68-67-75—210	-6
Dylan Wu	69-73-68—210	-6
Byeong Hun An	71-70-70—211	-5
Wyndham Clark	69-73-69—211	-5
Tony Finau	73-72-66—211	-5
Tyrrell Hatton	72-71-68—211	-5
Garrick Higgo	70-73-68—211	-5
Max Homa	72-72-67—211	-5
Si Woo Kim	69-74-68—211	-5
Hideki Matsuyama	74-70-67—211	-5
Brandon Wu	73-69-69—211	-5
Tyler Duncan	73-69-70—212	-4
Ryan Fox	74-68-70—212	-4
Russell Henley	72-74-66—212	-4
Kramer Hickok	73-70-69—212	-4
Francesco Molinari	73-71-68—212	-4
Taylor Pendrith	67-73-72—212	-4
Davis Thompson	70-73-69—212	-4
Cameron Young	71-73-68—212	-4
Will Gordon	73-67-73—213	-3
Mark Hubbard	71-72-70—213	-3
Nate Lashley	69-71-73—213	-3
Gary Woodland	72-70-71—213	-3
Sam Burns	68-74-72—214	-2
Lucas Glover	69-74-71—214	-2
Brian Harman	73-71-70—214	-2
Shane Lowry	77-69-68—214	-2
Keith Mitchell	72-74-68—214	-2
Sam Ryder	73-72-69—214	-2
Xander Schauffele	72-73-69—214	-2
Austin Smotherman	73-72-69—214	-2

Photographs by Godofredo A. Vásquez Associated Press

MEXICO pitcher Julio Urías looked dominant for four innings before surrendering consecutive doubles and a two-run homer off the left-field foul pole by journeyman Reynaldo Rodriguez in the top of the fifth inning.

Urías, Barnes hold their own, but Mexico falls to Colombia

Dodgers ace is perfect for four innings before faltering while catcher delivers two hits.

COLOMBIA 5
MEXICO 4 (10 INNS.)

By Jorge Castillo

PHOENIX — People were still streaming into Chase Field on Saturday, the volume growing with every addition to the green, red and white frenzy, and Julio Urías absorbed the vibes as best he could. He wanted to look around and greet everyone screaming his name while he warmed up in a Mexico jersey for the first time in more than a decade.

But he had a job to do. The team (Mexico) was different. The stakes (World Baseball Classic) were unusual. The timing (mid-March) was strange. Yet the goal was the same: Secure as many outs as possible.

For four innings, the left-hander compiled them without a hitch against Colombia. Twelve up, 12 down. Perfection. His fastball touched 95 mph. He accumulated four strikeouts. He needed just 45 pitches while comfortably working with Dodgers catcher Austin Barnes.

"He was untouchable," Mexico manager Benji Gil said.

And then he wasn't.

JORGE ALFARO of Colombia celebrates after scoring on an error by Luis Urías in the 10th inning.

Back-to-back doubles and a two-run home run off the left-field foul pole by Reynaldo Rodriguez — a 36-year-old journeyman who has never played in the major leagues — produced three Colombian runs to sour Urías' first career WBC start. Mexico later tied the score on Randy Arozarena's two-run home run but took a 10-inning loss 5-4.

The upset leaves Mexico in a near must-win situation against the United States on Sunday. Mexico fans aren't happy with the unexpected result. The Dodgers and their fans, however, should be. Urías looked sharp outside of that rough three-batter stretch. Most importantly, the Dodgers' de facto ace emerged healthy after unloading 62 pitches at max effort three weeks earlier than usual.

"He was looking really good," Barnes said. "But that's baseball. A couple of swings can change the game, but his stuff looked really good."

The sudden slide began when Jorge Alfaro, a veteran major league catcher, lined a double to right-center field. Four pitches later, Elias Díaz switched places with him. Rodriguez skied the next pitch, a 93-mph fastball, off the foul pole.

The pitch Rodriguez hit, Barnes noted, was a foot inside, off the plate. It didn't matter.

"I felt good," Urías said in Spanish. "Obviously, with baseball, that's the beauty of it. It doesn't matter how perfect you are, how good you are, how well your pitches and everything is working."

Sandwiched between the consecutive doubles was a brief scare behind the plate when Barnes took a pitch in the dirt from Urías in the throat. Barnes was shaken up for several moments. Trainers tended to him. He stayed in the game after taking a few practice tosses from Urías. He left the stadium with a red imprint on his neck.

Batting ninth, Barnes, who is expected to start most if not all of Mexico's games after Toronto Blue Jays catcher Alejandro Kirk pulled out of the tournament late last month, went two for four. He doubled with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning to put the winning run in scoring position before being replaced by a pinch-runner.

Colombia then intentionally walked Arozarena. The strategy worked. Guillermo Zúñiga, a former Dodgers minor leaguer, struck out Alex Verdugo, a former Dodgers outfielder, on three fastballs to end the inning. The first was 101 mph. The second was 100 mph. The third, a 102-mph dart, got Verdugo swinging.

An error led to Colombia's go-ahead run in the 10th inning, leaving most of the 28,497 people in attendance stunned. The result was disappointing for Mexico. For the Dodgers, it was a different story.

NOTES

Moreno: Ohtani staying with club while it contends

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Arte Moreno just couldn't do it. The Angels owner, who put the team up for sale in August, told Sports Illustrated he wasn't ready to give up his team despite receiving three offers worth more than the record $2.42 billion **Steve Cohen** purchased the New York Mets for in 2020.

"I had some big numbers," Moreno said in an interview with Sports Illustrated's **Tom Verducci**. "Yeah, it was above the Mets' number. Well, it was considerably above the Mets' number.

"I had one buyer come to [Angel Stadium] to close the deal," he said, then recounted the exchange with the buyer. "When you got right down to it, I didn't want to go."

Moreno has not spoken to local reporters in three years. His interview with Verducci represented his first detailed comments about the Angels in at least two years.

He told SI that last year the Angels had five real trade offers for **Shohei Ohtani** and declared they would not trade him this year while they are contending for a playoff spot. Asked whether he would consider trading him if the Angels are not in playoff contention, Moreno replied:

"We expect to be a playoff contender. Everything in our plans putting this team together is about getting to the playoffs. So, I'm not going to sit here and wonder what happens in an outcome we're not planning for. That would be like a fighter going into the ring and thinking, 'What if I lose?' If he does that, he will lose."

— Sarah Valenzuela

Schwarber powers U.S. to WBC win

Kyle Schwarber launched a three-run homer, **Nolan Arenado** had three hits and two RBIs, and the United States overcame a slow start to beat Britain 6-2 on Saturday night in the World Baseball Classic opener for both teams.

Trayce Thompson put Britain up 1-0 in the first inning with a homer off **Adam Wainwright** that just cleared the left-center wall. Thompson, who plays for the Dodgers, is one of the few players on Britain's roster with big league experience.

Ohtani helps Japan advance in WBC

Ohtani had another RBI double, 21-year-old right-hander **Roki Sasaki** reached 100 mph 21 times in 66 pitches and Japan beat the Czech Republic 10-2 on Saturday night to clinch a quarterfinal berth in the World Baseball Classic.

Ohtani went one for three with a walk before a crowd of 41,637 in the Tokyo Dome, leaving for a pinch-hitter in the eighth inning. He is five for 10 with three doubles, four RBIs and five walks for Japan (3-0), which has one more group game and will host a quarterfinal on Wednesday or Thursday. He also has pitched four scoreless innings.

In the opener, Australia routed China 12-2 in a game shortened to seven innings by the 10-run mercy rule.

In Group B, host Taiwan cruised to a 9-5 win over the Netherlands, and Panama won 2-0 over Italy. In Miami, **Francisco Lindor** scored twice and hit an RBI single as Puerto Rico beat Nicaragua 9-1 to win its WBC debut.

Etc.

St. Louis Cardinals rookie outfielder **Jordan Walker**, one of the sensations of spring training, left the game against the Houston Astros with a strained right shoulder suffered on a slide. Manager **Oliver Marmol** said he was not "overly concerned. Day to day."

Eugene Hoshiko Associated Press

SHOHEI OHTANI slides into second in Japan's 10-2 win over the Czech Republic at the WBC in Tokyo.

Freeman trades Dodger blue for Canadian red in WBC

[**Freeman,** from D1]

He wanted the name Rosemary Joy Freeman to be remembered.

"Pretty much everything I do," the Dodgers first baseman said, "is trying to make her proud."

It's why Freeman chose to represent Team Canada in the 2017 World Baseball Classic, and will do so again this week when the event returns to Chase Field in Phoenix.

He might have been born and raised in Southern California, but his parents were born in Canada — a point of pride Rosemary passed down to her kids before she died of melanoma in 2000, when Freeman was 10.

"I just realized that was more important to me," Freeman said last week, ahead of Canada's tournament opener on Sunday against Britain. "More than just playing baseball, it's to represent her and keep her memory alive."

Indeed, when Freeman was growing up, it was Rosemary who emphasized the family's Canadian heritage.

She was born and raised outside of Toronto. She met Fred — a dual Canadian and American citizen who spent parts of his childhood on both sides of the border — as a teenager at church in Windsor, Ontario, when both of their parents relocated there for work.

When Fred's family moved to California a few years later, he and Rosemary continued dating despite the longdistance.

After they got married in their early 20s, settling down in Orange County for the next two decades, Rosemary continued to embrace her Canadian identity.

"She was 100% Canadian, no doubt about it," Fred recalled with a laugh last week. "She was proud of being Canadian. She had a lot of friends she still kept in contact with in Canada. Her family is all from Canada."

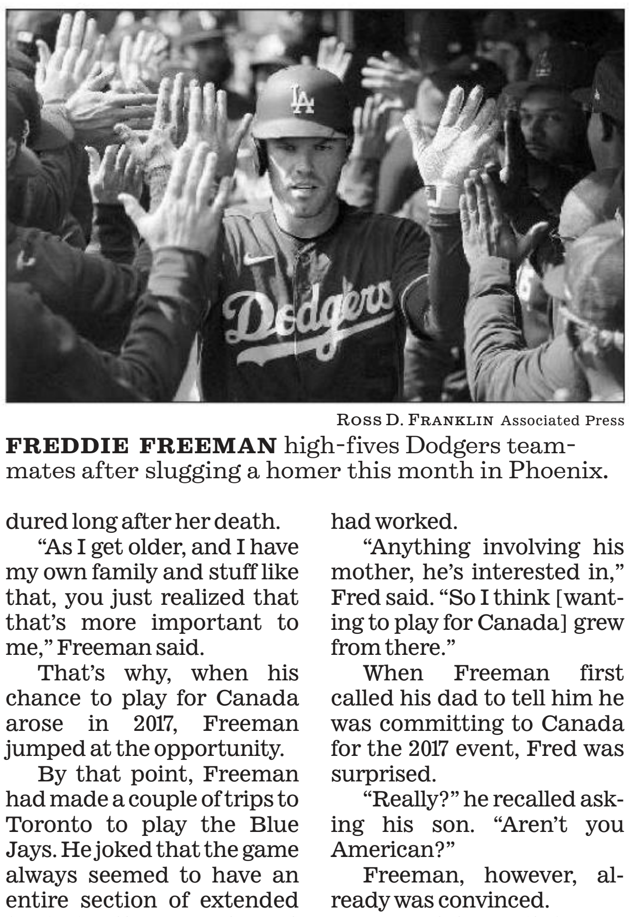
Heck, Fred said she was never even interested in applying for American citizenship.

"Growing up, I think [our kids] got the Canadian stuff from Rosemary," Fred said.

For a young Freeman, it left an impression in subtle ways. He remembers eagerly standing for the Canadian national anthem whenever the family went to watch the Toronto Blue Jays and Maple Leafs visit Anaheim. He always found a joyful distinction in a family background that differed from that of his friends and classmates.

"It never left her," Freeman said last week.

Therefore, it never left him, becoming an emotional touchstone that has endured long after her death.



Ross D. Franklin Associated Press

FREDDIE FREEMAN high-fives Dodgers teammates after slugging a homer this month in Phoenix.

"As I get older, and I have my own family and stuff like that, you just realized that that's more important to me," Freeman said.

That's why, when his chance to play for Canada arose in 2017, Freeman jumped at the opportunity.

By that point, Freeman had made a couple of trips to Toronto to play the Blue Jays. He joked that the game always seemed to have an entire section of extended family in attendance to root for him.

During those visits, Freeman toured the city; not in search of tourist landmarks, but to seek out places from his mom's old life, including a building where she once lived and an office where she had worked.

"Anything involving his mother, he's interested in," Fred said. "So I think [wanting to play for Canada] grew from there."

When Freeman first called his dad to tell him he was committing to Canada for the 2017 event, Fred was surprised.

"Really?" he recalled asking his son. "Aren't you American?"

Freeman, however, already was convinced.

"I want to do it for my mom," he responded. "To honor her."

And when Freeman lined up for the Canadian national anthem before that tournament's opener, in a game in Miami against the Dominican Republic with his dad in the stands, father and son felt the song resonate with them.

"I didn't think I'd have feelings for Canada," said Fred, who always felt more American than Canadian, so much so he's lost most of the Canadian accent he had as a kid. "But all of a sudden, he's playing for Canada and the national anthem is going and the colors of the uniforms — I was like, 'Wow, I'm really tied into this.' "

So was Freeman.

"It was emotional," he said. "There was a little more meaning."

Freeman doesn't expect this WBC to strike him quite so deeply. He has become more comfortable and open discussing his mom's legacy in the six years since. He knows what to expect emotionally.

He also is more eager to get at least one win this time, after Canada went 0-3 and was outscored by 18 runs in 2017.

"I know Canadians like my story," Freeman said. "But they still want to win ballgames."

To that end, he's eager to reconnect with the Canadian baseball community, from national team manager Ernie Whitt — whom Freeman now counts as one of his friends — to Canadian baseball icons like Larry Walker, Tim Leiper and Greg Hamilton.

He's looking forward to playing with a roster of young prospects and minor-league veterans. Cleveland Guardians pitcher Cal Quantrill and St. Louis Cardinals outfielder Tyler O'Neill are Canada's most notable other big leaguers.

"I had so much fun," Freeman said of 2017. "That's why I wanted to do it again. Immediately, right after 2017, I said, next one I'm in. Just send me all the stuff, and I'll be there."

This spring, Freeman is following through.

When Team Canada swag arrived recently, Freeman strutted around the Dodgers clubhouse in their all-red track suit. He left a hat waiting in the stall of teammate Julio Urías, the ace of Mexico's team, which will be competing against Canada in Group C.

Freeman left Dodgers camp a few days later to join the Canadian team, preparing for games he said are similar to a playoff atmosphere.

When he lines up for the anthem before Sunday's opener, he's sure he'll be thinking of his mom and his family.

"It's just a way to honor my parents, where they came from," he said. "So for me, in my head, in my heart, this is what I think is right."

No free spending for Rams

Snead says team will ‘hit the brakes’ when it comes to making usual splashy moves.

By Gary Klein

Since returning to Los Angeles from St. Louis in 2016, the Rams never shied from making bold moves. General manager Les Snead seemingly thrived on turning the NFL on its head with huge trades and free-agent signings.

Yet Snead said last week that despite “DNA” that drives the Rams to “attack, hit the gas,” they are going to “hit the brakes a little bit.”

So as the NFL’s negotiating period for unrestricted free agents begins Monday, the Rams will probably make more headlines for the players cut loose than those they might acquire.

Veteran linebacker Bobby Wagner and edge rusher Leonard Floyd already were released, and star cornerback Jalen Ramsey and receiver Allen Robinson could be out the door next via trade or release.

By Wednesday, the start of the new league year, the Rams must be under the $224.8-million salary cap. Cuts and restructured contracts will get them there as the Rams and coach Sean McVay prepare to bounce back from a horrible 5-12 season.

Here is a look at the Rams roster as they enter free agency:

Quarterbacks

The Rams are not in the market for a starter. Matthew Stafford, 35, will carry a cap number of $20 million this season before ballooning to $49.5 million in 2024. The Rams need a backup — and Baker Mayfield is a free agent seeking a starting opportunity. John Wolford and Bryce Perkins are restricted free agents. The Rams might fill a spot with a low-priced free agent or possibly draft a quarterback for the first time since 2016.

Luis Sinco Los Angeles Times

THE RAMS might have a new backup quarterback for Matthew Stafford next season.

Running backs

The Rams could explore acquiring a veteran running back. Cam Akers, whom the Rams attempted to trade last season, will carry a cap number of nearly $2 million in the final year of his rookie contract.

Kyren Williams was sidelined for most of his rookie season because of injuries. Ronnie Rivers started one game last season. Ron Gould is the new running backs coach.

Receivers/tight ends

Receiver Cooper Kupp has the team’s highest cap number at $27.8 million and is coming off an ankle injury that forced him to sit out the latter part of the 2022 season.

Robinson, the Rams’ big free-agent acquisition last season, did not pan out. Van Jefferson enters the final year of his rookie contract. The Rams are expected to remain in play for free agent Odell Beckham Jr. Tutu Atwell and Ben Skowronek are going into their third seasons.

Robert Gauthier L.A. Times

CAM AKERS is the top returning running back for the Rams, who figure to add at the position.

Tight end Tyler Higbee has a cap number of $9.1 million. Fourth-year tight end Brycen Hopkins has improved but has not proved he can be a front-line player.

Offensive linemen

Despite the subpar performances and injuries that ravaged the line last season, the Rams probably won’t dive heavily into the first wave of free-agent linemen. Rob Havenstein, the only starter who played every game last season, has a cap number of $9.7 million. Left tackles Joe Noteboom and Alaric Jackson and center Brian Allen are coming off injuries. Guard David Edwards and guard-center Coleman Shelton are free agents. Ryan Wendell is the new offensive line coach.

Defensive linemen

Star Aaron Donald, coming off an ankle injury, remains the centerpiece with a cap number of $26 million. Tackles A’Shawn Robinson and Greg Gaines and versatile lineman Marquise Copeland are free agents, so Snead will be in the market for rotational players to surround Donald. Defensive line coach Eric Henderson needs young players such as tackle Bobby Brown III and Earnest Brown IV to step up.

Outside linebackers

The Rams released 2022 sacks leader Floyd on Friday — and incurred a $19-million dead money hit. Without Floyd, converted lineman Michael Hoecht is now the most formidable pass-rushing threat. So the Rams will be seeking help, probably midlevel free agents and certainly in the draft. McVay and defensive coordinator Raheem Morris are counting on assistant Chris Shula to develop the position group.

Inside linebackers

Following the release of Wagner, third-year pro Ernest Jones takes over the defense. Jones will carry a cap number of $1.3 million at a position the Rams have not traditionally paid premium salaries. Jake Hummel and Christian Rozeboom are other inside linebackers on the roster.

Defensive backs

Ramsey is due to carry a cap number of $25.2 million. Troy Hill and David Long are free agents, so second-year pros Cobie Durant and Derion Kendrick will have more opportunities. The Rams could explore adding a veteran in free agency, and add depth through the draft. Safeties Nick Scott and Taylor Rapp are free agents. Jordan Fuller is due to carry a $2.8-million cap number in the final year of his rookie contract. Second-year pros Russ Yeast and Quentin Lake are the other safeties.

Specialists

New special teams coordinator Chase Blackburn could have an entirely new group. Kicker Matt Gay, a Pro Bowl selection in 2021, punter Riley Dixon, long-snapper Matt Orzech and kick returner Brandon Powell are free agents.

Chargers seek free-agent spark

By Jeff Miller

They added everything from a Pro Bowl edge rusher to a punter, signed everything from six defensive starters to a long snapper.

The 2022 offseason was active and pricey for the Chargers, the team committing $78.172 million in fully guaranteed money to 11 free agents who became significant contributors.

The moves began with a trade for Khalil Mack in early March and continued through the signing of Morgan Fox in mid-May.

The Chargers rebuilt their defense and special teams and added Gerald Everett and DeAndre Carter as options for quarterback Justin Herbert.

Now, with the 2023 free-agent negotiating period set to open Monday, they look to continue to push coming off a season in which they finished 10-7 and returned to the playoffs.

The Chargers recently reworked four contracts to give themselves some financial relief for the start of the new league year. They entered the weekend with $19 million in salary-cap space, according to overthecap.com.

Here’s a position-by-position look at their roster as the player-movement season draws closer.

Quarterbacks

The only drama is whether Herbert and the team can agree on an extension this offseason, the first in which the 2020 first-round pick is eligible for a second contract.

Any deal for Herbert would put him among the group of quarterbacks with at least $100 million fully guaranteed, a club that right now numbers five — Deshaun Watson, Russell Wilson, Kyler Murray, Aaron Rodgers and Josh Allen.

Both of the quarterbacks behind Herbert on the depth chart last season — Chase Daniel and Easton Stick — are set to be unrestricted free agents. The Chargers also will have a new quarterbacks coach (Doug Nussmeier) in 2023.

Running backs

Austin Ekeler has scored an NFL-best 38 scrimmage touchdowns over the last two years. That’s 12 more than second-place James Conner.

Allen J. Schaben L.A. Times

JUSTIN HERBERT is eligible for a second deal this offseason for the first time in his career.

Next season, Ekeler is set to make a base salary of $6.25 million, which is well below his market value. This will be a situation to monitor throughout the offseason as Ekeler clearly has some leverage.

The Chargers continue to search for a second reliable running back, with Joshua Kelley and Isaiah Spiller still vying for the job. They are hoping for marked growth in particular from Spiller, who won’t turn 22 until August.

Receivers/tight ends

Everett is coming off his best NFL season statistically but also continued to experience the sort of mental lapses that have marked his career.

Tre’ McKitty’s future is as a blocker, and Donald Parham Jr.’s health remains a concern as he is set to become a restricted free agent, making tight end a thin position for the Chargers.

They have a solid trio of wide receivers in Keenan Allen, Mike Williams and Joshua Palmer, but some field-stretching speed on the outside would maximize Herbert’s long-ball skills.

More than free agency, the draft would seem to be the place for the Chargers to better address these needs. Wide receiver and tight end — along with offensive line — are the most popular positions for the Chargers in the various mock drafts.

Offensive linemen

Right tackle Trey Pipkins III is set to be an unrestricted free agent, and his departure would leave a hole, one that Jamaree Salyer could potentially fill.

Robert Gauthier L.A. Times

AUSTIN EKELER, who has scored 38 times the last two years, is set to make $6.25 million.

A 2022 sixth-round pick, Salyer was pressed into starting at left tackle after Rashawn Slater tore his biceps in Week 3. With Slater’s return, Salyer also could move to left guard, if the Chargers release Matt Feiler.

Depending on what happens with Pipkins, the team again could be looking to draft another offensive lineman early. The Chargers’ past two first-round picks have been Slater in 2021 and right guard Zion Johnson in 2022.

Defensive linemen

The Chargers signed Fox for one year and $1.1 million, with only $100,000 fully guaranteed. He played his way into a deal much better than that and probably beyond the Chargers’ means.

The return of Austin Johnson will help after the veteran was limited to eight games in 2022 because of injury. But he’s coming off a significant knee issue, so the Chargers aren’t sure about his status.

This is a position that needs help behind Sebastian Joseph-Day. The Chargers will add to their defensive front as their problems stopping the run continued last year.

Edge rushers

Depth is the concern at a position where the Chargers open with Mack and Joey Bosa, two Pro Bowl-performing players capable of greatly impacting games.

But the team’s third edge rusher is Chris Rumph II, who has three career sacks in two seasons and played only 33% of the defensive snaps last year.

Veteran Kyle Van Noy emerged as a valuable addition as the season progressed, the Chargers relying on his pass rush ability in Bosa’s injury absence. But Van Noy is about to become a free agent.

Linebackers

Drue Tranquill just led the Chargers in tackles and proved to be a valuable leader in relaying the signals in the defensive huddle. But he, too, is set to hit free agency.

Replacing Tranquill wouldn’t be easy because he also established himself in 2022 as a weapon in the pass rush, finishing behind only Mack and Fox on the team with five sacks.

Last year, Kenneth Murray Jr. appeared in all 17 games — 16 of them starts — the second time in three NFL seasons that he has been available for the full schedule.

Defensive backs

The Chargers’ splashiest free-agent signing a year ago was J.C. Jackson. They’re still not sure what they have in the veteran cornerback.

Jackson struggled to fit into head coach Brandon Staley’s system early and was benched. After returning, he suffered a torn patellar tendon, an injury that will require extensive work to make it back.

Slot corner Bryce Callahan and safety Nasir Adderley are pending free agents.

The Chargers have the option of moving Alohi Gilman into Adderley’s starting spot, while Ja’Sir Taylor would be a possibility to replace Callahan.

Specialists

The Chargers made significant progress on special teams last year under new coordinator Ryan Ficken and assistant Chris Gould.

But their list of internal free agents now includes punter JK Scott and core special teamer Troy Reeder. Carter, who handled punt and kickoff returns, also will be free to sign elsewhere.

In a bit of an oddity given their recent history, the Chargers have two capable kickers in Dustin Hopkins and Cameron Dicker. They could keep both into training camp.

Eric Jamison Associated Press

ALEXIS TUCKER of UC Santa Barbara dribbles and is fouled by Hawaii’s Imani Perez in the first half.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Santa Barbara pulls away to beat Fullerton

WIRE REPORTS

Ajay Mitchell scored 20 points, including 14 in the second half to lead UC Santa Barbara to a 72-62 victory over Cal State Fullerton in the championship of the Big West Conference tournament at Henderson, Nev.

The victory for the Gauchos (27-7) clinched an automatic berth in the NCAA tournament. The Titans (20-13) were seeking their second consecutive trip to the tournament.

Mitchell made eight of 12 shots and also had four rebounds and four assists. Cole Anderson scored 12 points off the bench and helped Santa Barbara start to take control by making three of four three-pointers. Calvin Wishart scored 16 points, including key free throws late to ice it.

Max Jones scored 18 points for Fullerton, but the Titans were cold from outside, making only two of 14 three-pointers (14.3%). Latrell Wrightsell Jr. and Tory San Antonio each scored 15.

Hawaii 61, UC Santa Barbara 59: Lily Wahinekapu and Daejah Phillips each scored 19 points as the Rainbow Wahines (18-14) rallied from a 12-point, fourth-quarter deficit to beat the Gauchos (21-12) to win the Big West women’s title.

Top 25

No. 1 Houston 69, Cincinnati 48: Jamal Shead had 16 points and nine assists as the Cougars (31-2) advanced to their fifth straight American Athletic Conference championship game, even after losing star guard Marcus Sasser to an injury.

No. 7 Texas 76, No. 3 Kansas 56: Dylan Disu overcame early foul trouble to score 18 points, Marcus Carr and Sir’Jabari Rice had 17 apiece, and the Longhorns (26-8) silenced a heavily pro-Kansas crowd by romping over the Jayhawks (27-7) to win the Big 12 championship.

No. 4 Alabama 72, No. 25 Missouri 61: Freshman Brandon Miller scored 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds as the Crimson Tide (28-5) advanced to the Southeastern Conference tournament championship by beating the Tigers (24-9). Alabama will play No. 18 Texas A&M, an 87-75 winner over Vanderbilt, in the final.

No. 5 Purdue 80, Ohio State 66: Zach Edey had 32 points and 14 rebounds as the Boilermakers (28-5) knocked off the Buckeyes (16-19) in the semifinals of the Big Ten tournament. Purdue will play Penn State, which beat No. 19 Indiana 77-73, in the final.

No. 6 Marquette 65, No. 15 Xavier 51: Tyler Kolek had 20 points and eight rebounds as the Golden Eagles (28-6) won the Big East tournament for the first time after beating the Musketeers (25-9).

No. 21 Duke 59, No. 13 Virginia 49: Jeremy Roach scored 23 points and the Blue Devils (26-8) locked down defensively to beat the Cavaliers (25-7) to win the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament.

No. 20 San Diego State 62, Utah State 57: Jaedon LeDee scored 15 points and Matt Bradley had 14 to lift the Aztecs (27-6) over the Aggies (26-8) to win the Mountain West tournament.

Notes

Wichita State fired coach **Isaac Brown**, one day after the Shockers were bounced from the American Athletic Conference tournament and two years after he was voted the league's coach of the year. ... **Rick Stansbury** resigned after seven seasons as Western Kentucky’s head coach and cited a need to focus on his health and family. ... Buffalo fired coach **Jim Whitesell** after his first losing season in four years.

Results

MEN’S TOP 25
No. 1 Houston 69, Cincinnati 48
No. 8 Arizona 61, No. 2 UCLA 59
No. 7 Texas 76, No. 3 Kansas 56
No. 4 Alabama 72, No. 25 Missouri 61
No. 5 Purdue 80, Ohio State 66
No. 6 Marquette 65, No. 15 Xavier 51
No. 21 Duke 59, No. 13 Virginia 49
No. 18 Texas A&M 87, Vanderbilt 75
Penn State 77, No. 19 Indiana 73
No. 20 San Diego State 62, Utah State 57

BIG WEST MEN’S TOURNAMENT
UC Santa Barbara 72, Cal State Fullerton 62

WOMEN’S TOP 25
Iowa State 82, No. 14 Oklahoma 72
No. 15 Texas 64, Oklahoma State 57
No. 25 Middle Tennessee 82, Western Kentucky 70

BIG WEST WOMEN’S TOURNAMENT
Hawaii 61, UC Santa Barbara 59

NCAA bids

Teams that have clinched tournament berths:

MEN

- Kennesaw State, ASUN
- North Carolina Asheville, Big South
- Drake, Missouri Valley
- Fairleigh Dickinson, Northeast
- Southeast Missouri State, Ohio Valley
- Louisiana, Sun Belt
- Furman, Southern
- Gonzaga, West Coast
- Northern Kentucky, Horizon
- Charleston, Colonial
- Oral Roberts, Summit
- Texas A&M Corpus Christi, Southland
- Colgate, Patriot
- Montana State, Big Sky
- Vermont, America East
- Howard, MEAC
- Texas Southern, SWAC
- Texas, Big 12
- San Diego State, Mountain West
- Marquette, Big East
- Kent State, MAC
- Iona, MAAC
- Duke, ACC
- Florida Atlantic, Conference USA
- UC Santa Barbara, Big West
- Arizona, Pac-12
- Grand Canyon, WAC

WOMEN

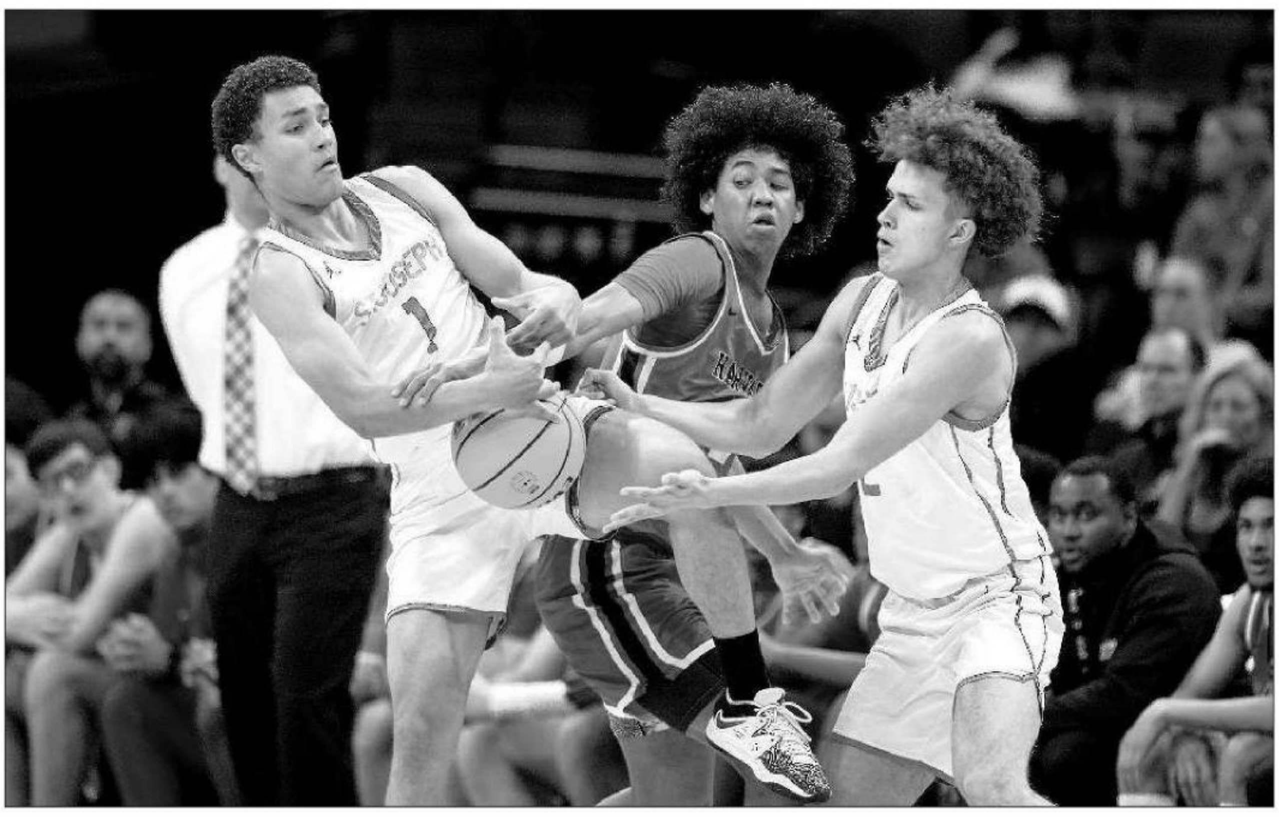
- Saint Louis, Atlantic 10
- Virginia Tech, ACC
- Gardner-Webb, Big South
- Iowa, Big Ten
- Tennessee Tech, Ohio Valley
- Washington State, Pac-12
- South Carolina, SEC
- Chattanooga, Southern
- Connecticut, Big East
- Cleveland State, Horizon
- South Dakota State, Summit
- Portland, West Coast
- James Madison, Sun Belt
- Sacramento State, Big Sky
- UNLV, Mountain West
- Southeastern Louisiana, Southland
- East Carolina, American
- Vermont, America East
- Iona, MAAC
- Southern, SWAC
- Toledo, MAC
- Norfolk State, MEAC
- Princeton, Ivy
- Middle Tennessee, Conf. USA
- Hawaii, Big West
- Southern Utah, WAC
- Florida Gulf Coast, ASUN

Khamenia lifts Harvard-Westlake to title

Sophomore continues recent run to help the Wolverines win state Open Division crown.

HARV.-WESTLAKE 76
S.M. ST. JOSEPH 65

By Eric Sondheimer



Jose Luis Villegas For The Times

HARVARD-WESTLAKE'S Robert Hinton, middle, knocks the ball away from St. Joseph's Julius Price, left, as Luis Marin tries to help in the first quarter of the Wolverines' 76-65 win in the Open Division title game.

SACRAMENTO — To see a 16-year-old sophomore basketball player blossom over the course of a five-month high school season and go from a player with potential to a player making three-pointers in an NBA arena and playing such suffocating defense that the other team's star player is almost invisible explains how valuable 6-foot-8 Nikolas Khamenia has been during March Madness for Studio City Harvard-Westlake.

It culminated on the biggest stage at Golden 1 Center on Saturday night with Harvard-Westlake (33-2) validating itself as the No. 1 team in California after a 76-65 victory over Santa Maria St. Joseph in the state Open Division championship game. Though Harvard-Westlake has five starters who surely are headed to college, Khamenia was the one who elevated the Wolverines to state champion in the toughest division.

He took down three-time defending Southern Section Open Division Corona Centennial last week with a 20-point performance. This time, he was assigned to guard St. Joseph's talented 6-8 Tounde Yessoufou, averaging 28.2 points. He limited him to six points in the first half and 14 points in 32 minutes. Khamenia also scored 16 points, making three three-pointers.

Harvard-Westlake led at halftime 35-31. The Knights were able to hang around because 6-6 guard Luis Marin kept using his size to maneuver inside and had 15 points, making seven of his eight shots. As usual, the Wolverines were getting contributions from all five starters and Christian Horry came off the bench to make a baseline three-pointer that had his father, Robert, sitting courtside, feeling good.

In the third quarter, the Wolverines made a big adjustment. Brady Dunlap, at 6-8, was assigned to cover Marin, who suddenly stopped scoring. Harvard-Westlake went on a 7-0 surge and took a 48-35 lead.

The players who needed to come through did for Harvard-Westlake. Point guard Trent Perry, the Mission League player of the year, had 12 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds. Dunlap scored 16 points. Jacob Huggins had 15 points and 11 rebounds.

The legacy of this Harvard-Westlake team might be in the discussion for best in school history. The teams of 1996 and 1997 that won consecutive state Division III championships with the Collins twins, Jason and Jarron, have always been used as the measuring stick for basketball greatness. The 1997 team went 36-1, was ranked No. 1 in California and lost only to national power Mt. Zion Christian Academy of Durham, N.C. Harvard-Westlake finished 33-2 with close losses to Henderson (Nev.) Liberty and Bellflower St. John Bosco. And each time, the Wolverines responded with a vengeance, learning from their mistakes.

Three of their five starters are underclassmen — Perry, Robert Hinton and Khamenia. Add Horry, the key sixth man, and developing freshman big man Dominique Bentho, and the Wolverines have the makings for another powerful starting lineup for 2023-24.

Etiwanda digs deep for crown

ETIWANDA 69
MITTY 67

By Luca Evans

SACRAMENTO — They had one window now, prying the glass open just a little, fighting back because these Etiwanda Eagles would never quit no matter how hard the titan in front of them punched.

Down by five to San Jose's Archbishop Mitty with two minutes left in Saturday's Open Division state final at Golden 1 Center, coach Stan Delus calmly sat his players down in a timeout. Pointed at each of them, and with his voice steadily rising to a crescendo, delivered the message that will go down in Etiwanda program lore.

"Change your mindset … that's all you have to do right now in this moment," Delus roared. "So step up now and play the moment."

For three years, junior Kennedy Smith had been playing the moment. And as the minutes ticked down and Etiwanda fought back, tying the game at 67 with a handful of seconds left, possession and a shot at a state championship, it seemed only right that the ball be in Smith's hands for her shot at another moment.

She dribbled baseline, firing a long midrange jumper, the ball ticking off the backboard and swirling around the rim once. Twice. Dropping, heart-wrenchingly, off iron. And into the waiting arms of junior Jada Sanders, who scored on the put-back as the buzzer sounded and pandemonium ensued in a 69-67 win.

Her teammates mobbed her at half-court, melting into a puddle of disbelief, spilling out like the gallons of emotions the Eagles have expended in a miraculous season.

"It went up, I said — 'Wow,' " Delus said, miming his eyes widening at the layup, the Eagles bursting into laughter in the postgame news conference.

They beat La Jolla Country Day in the regional semifinal. They somehow knocked off Chatsworth Sierra Canyon, the familiar foe that took them down in the Southern Section finals, in the regional final.

And they outlasted Archbishop Mitty, three massive wins against three of the best private-school programs in the United States for a program that will always see itself as a public school representing the Inland Empire.

"To do it with local kids from the neighborhood … this is not normal," Delus said, reflecting on the wins before tipoff.

"We got wind that there was some disappointment about playing us instead of Sierra Canyon — hey, they wanted get-back from last year, I get it," Delus said of Archbishop Mitty's loss to the Trailblazers last year in the state final. "But I have to make sure people understand, we're not just this school … for some strange reason, we're still looked at as, we're good, but are we that good? Can we be that good?

"We can," Delus continued. "We actually can."

Sanders walked away the hero, but Smith was the end-to-end engine, putting up a stat line that spoke for itself but couldn't speak for the sweat she left on the floor: 30 points, 13 boards, six steals, four blocks.

Three years ago, in the summer of Smith's freshman year, she walked into a practice against reigning 6-foot-4 Etiwanda post monster Jessica Peterson. And Delus never will forget how Peterson, now a center at Southern Methodist, went at her. Challenged her.

So Smith, Delus described in the fall, waving his arms to demonstrate, went right back. Caught the ball. Elbow. Bucket in the post. She was there to play as an equal.

"She never backed down from anything, Kennedy Smith," Delus said earlier this season.

These Eagles have waded through mud all season, mucking up the pace at their discretion, executing down the stretch. And as they held the state championship trophy aloft, the familiar chants came from the loyal brass behind the bench.

"E-High! E-High!"

Jose Luis Villegas For The Times

ETIWANDA'S Kennedy Smith drives on Maya Hernandez of Mitty during the first half in Sacramento.

STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Open Division Boys
Harvard-Westlake 76, Santa Maria St. Joseph 65
Open Division Girls
Etiwanda 69, San Jose Mitty 67
Division II Boys
Fresno San Joaquin Memorial 58, Newport Beach Pacifica Christian 47
Division II Girls
Fresno Central 52, Chula Vista Bonita Vista 41
Division IV Boys
Valencia 89, Half Moon Bay 59
Division V Girls
Angels Camp Bret Harte 62, Marina 39

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

Division I Boys
Sherman Oaks Notre Dame 67, Livermore Granada 58
Division I Girls
Oakland Tech 75, Corona Santiago 52
Division III Boys
Oakland 59, Buena 43
Division III Girls
Los Osos 65, Colfax 48
Division IV Girls
Shalhevet 50, San Anselmo San Domenico 46
Division V Boys
Lynwood 89, Tollhouse Sierra 58

STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bedgoods power Valencia to title

By Eric Sondheimer and Luca Evans

SACRAMENTO — Bryce Bedgood plucked a rebound out of the air, flung an outlet pass to teammate Mikah Ballew and stopped for a moment. He'd done his job.

But that wasn't the mentality that got Valencia here, turning a 7-9 start into a dominant run to a Southern Section Boys' Division 4AA title and Saturday's berth in the Division IV state final against Half Moon Bay. And it certainly wasn't the mentality that father and coach Bill Bedgood tried to instill all these years in his 6-foot-9 son.

So as Michel-Zavala shot a corner three, Bryce Bedgood galloped back down the court, outmuscled a Half Moon Bay player half his size trying to box him out, snared the rebound over another Cougars player and finished a tough put-back layup.

"Even 7-9, halfway through the year, I would've not made the play, cause I'd be lazy," Bryce said.

It was a microcosm of Bedgood's season, a player who admitted he used to stumble over his own limbs maximizing a growth spurt — four inches over the course of the season — through sheer effort. And in leading Valencia to an 89-59 win and a Division IV state title, he closed out a lifelong journey with his dad, the elder Bedgood walking away with a trophy in the final game of his coaching career.

"What's more important to me is just being a dad," Bill Bedgood said afterward, the 6-6 veteran coach's eyes turning red.

"And I think being a dad makes you a better coach. But I don't know if being a coach makes you a better dad, always."

Bryce Bedgood got going offensively in the second half, showcasing fine footwork and touch in finishing with 22 points, 13 rebounds and seven blocked shots. Ballew, who had transferred from Mission Hills Bishop Alemany, scored 25 points, and point guard Kai Davis added a steady hand with 17 points and eight assists.

Division II boys

Fresno San Joaquin Memorial 58, Newport Beach Pacifica Christian 47: Mike Davis Jr. had 17 points and 14 rebounds to lead the Panthers to the title.

EJ Spillman had 13 points and Parker Strauss added 11 for the Tritons.

Division V girls

Angels Camp Bret Harte 62, Huntington Beach Marina 39: Three-sport standout Aariah Fox finished with 22 points, 15 rebounds, four assists and five steals to lead the Bullfrogs to the win.

Freshman guard Rylee Bradley had a game-high 23 points to lead Marina.

Bruins defeated in Pac-12 tournament championship game

[**UCLA,** from D1]

throws, the ball rolling around the rim before coming off. Cronin said Campbell was unnecessarily mad at himself afterward.

"I would put my career on the line," Cronin said, "with Tyger at the line."

Another opportunity had been lost for UCLA after Jaquez knocked the ball away from Tubelis with 1:10 left for a steal and the Bruins holding a one-point lead. But after the Bruins called a timeout, Jaquez missed a short jumper.

"I had a lot of great looks," said Jaquez, who scored 13 points on five-for-18 shooting, "I just missed."

The Wildcats missed their next shot but Tubelis snagged an offensive rebound and found Courtney Ramey for a three-pointer that pushed Arizona into a 60-58 lead with 18 seconds left. Cronin suggested that Ramey had pushed off on Will McClendon before the shot, one of two issues Cronin had with the officials.

The other came in the first half when Jaquez passed to a cutting Amari Bailey, who threw down a vicious, one-handed dunk over Arizona's Pelle Larsson. The whistle blew. Bruins fans roared, presuming it was a chance for a three-point play.

Nope. The official motioned with his arm to signal that Bailey had pushed off. Offensive foul. Cronin and the Bruins fans were livid.

"An offensive foul called on a guy who had the best dunk of the season," Cronin said incredulously.

It somehow got worse. On the Wildcats' next possession, Larsson threw down his own one-handed dunk, prompting an Arizona fan sitting courtside to yell, "That's how you do it!"

Bruised but not broken, the Bruins kept fighting back. They took a nine-point lead early in the second half before it looked like they might run out of magic. Shots stopped falling. Fouls piled up.

With freshman center Adem Bona watching after injuring his left shoulder Friday, the Bruins ran out of big men in the final minutes. Backup Mac Etienne fouled out with 9:35 left and Kenneth Nwuba followed with four minutes to go.

Tubelis scored 19 for the Wildcats (28-6), and Bailey had 19 to lead the Bruins.

This was supposed to be a chance to solve the debates, answer the questions, end any lingering doubts.

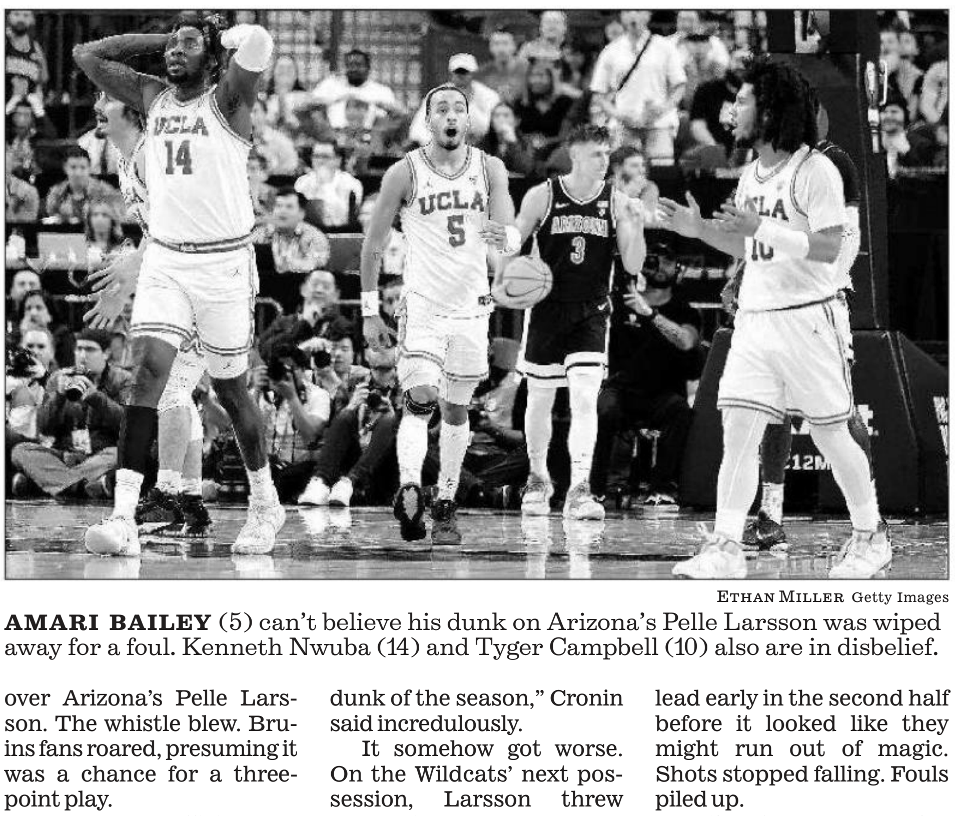
These teams had met twice this season, each winning once. The respective fan bases had made their cases for superiority. UCLA was the tougher, more complete team. Arizona possessed the bigger front line and a mightier offense.

The Bruins had won the Pac-12 title in a four-game runaway, thumping the Wildcats just last week. But any reasonable calculus of the Bruins had changed considerably over the last week.

Junior guard Jaylen Clark was out with a lower-leg injury. Bona, a shot-blocking menace, was transformed into a cheerleader by the shoulder soreness that's not expected to keep him out past Saturday.

The Bruins withstood it all as part of a stirring Pac-12 tournament run that was the stuff of Disney, pulling away from Colorado before blitzing Oregon behind a Campbell barrage. But this challenge was on another level, like going from scaling the Santa Monica Mountains to Mount Everest.

UCLA made it most of the way but couldn't reach the summit.



Ethan Miller Getty Images

AMARI BAILEY (5) can't believe his dunk on Arizona's Pelle Larsson was wiped away for a foul. Kenneth Nwuba (14) and Tyger Campbell (10) also are in disbelief.

NO. 8 ARIZONA 61, NO. 2 UCLA 59

ARIZONA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
A.Tubelis	33	5-17	9-11	4-14	0	2	19
Ballo	26	4-8	5-9	3-8	0	2	13
Kriisa	30	2-4	0-0	0-0	0	5	6
Ramey	32	1-5	0-0	1-7	1	4	3
Henderson	21	1-6	0-1	0-1	2	2	2
Larsson	34	3-7	3-4	1-4	5	2	11
Boswell	20	3-4	0-0	0-0	3	0	7
Veesaar	3	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	1	0
Bal	2	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	1	0
Totals		19-52	17-25	9-36	11	19	61

Shooting: Field goals, 36.5%; free throws, 68.0%

Three-point goals: 6-20 (Kriisa 2-3, Larsson 2-4, Boswell 1-2, Ramey 1-5, A.Tubelis 0-3, Henderson 0-3). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 2 (Ballo 2). Turnovers: 11 (Ballo 4, Larsson 3, A.Tubelis 2, Kriisa 2). Steals: 3 (Henderson 2, Ramey). Technical Fouls: None.

UCLA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Nwuba	17	0-0	1-2	2-3	1	5	1
Bailey	37	8-14	2-2	3-7	1	3	19
Campbell	37	5-14	5-7	0-4	2	0	16
Singleton	34	0-3	0-0	0-1	1	1	0
Jaquez	38	5-18	3-3	2-10	2	3	13
Etienne	16	1-1	0-2	2-7	0	5	2
Andrews	13	3-7	0-0	0-0	0	0	8
McClendon	7	0-3	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Totals		22-60	11-16	9-32	7	18	59

Shooting: Field goals, 36.7%; free throws, 68.8%

Three-point goals: 4-19 (Andrews 2-4, Campbell 1-4, Bailey 1-5, Singleton 0-1, McClendon 0-2, Jaquez 0-3). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: 3. Blocked Shots: 4 (Etienne 2, Jaquez, Singleton). Turnovers: 5 (Bailey 3, Andrews, Singleton). Steals: 5 (Singleton 2, Bailey, Jaquez, McClendon). Technical Fouls: None.

Arizona	33	28—	61
UCLA	34	25—	59

His hoop dreams nearly derailed

FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

KADE WEST playing at home, where he wore out basketballs and damaged cars in a deep passion that served as a welcome escape.

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

WITH A TIRELESS work ethic that had him in the gym an hour before practice and an hour afterward, West impressed teammates, and his energy and spirit forged camaraderie.

The CCCAA had dropped the hammer, Cerritos College had administered the blow, and what was once so beautiful became broken.

‘Yes, I broke a bylaw, but is this what our society has become? Shouldn’t this become something we celebrate?’

—RUSS MAY

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

RUSS MAY, right, changed a life when he gave West the nod to play. May says he wouldn’t do anything different if the situation arose again.

[**Plaschke,** from D1]

bench-warming inspiration. West celebrated the awarding of his new No. 15 uniform as if he had just joined the Lakers.

There was one problem. Because West’s special needs prevented him from completing the required 12 academic units required to play, he needed an eligibility waiver from the California Community College Athletic Assn. Despite the family’s best efforts, the waiver appeal had not yet been processed. When the game against Porterville had reached its final 1:39, West was still not yet officially allowed to play.

Yet suddenly, that didn’t seem to matter. The team’s players and assistant coaches and even fans were begging for one shining moment.

“Coach, coach, put him in!”

May looked down at the end of the bench and sighed. The game was in Visalia and West’s family had paid his way so he could travel with the team. This could be the fulfillment of a dream of a player who didn’t let an inability to hear or speak or read above a third-grade level stop him from playing his way into the Falcons’ hearts. His teammates would applaud him by waving both hands in the air. The Cerritos fans would cheer him by stomping their feet on the bleachers so he could feel the vibration.

May couldn’t help himself. He knew Kade West wasn’t officially on the team, but, at that moment, no one on the team was more important. May looked down to the praying figure. He motioned to the court. It was a gesture he knew West would understand.

“Get in there, Kade.”

West shot out of his seat. He raced into the action. He sprinted up and down for those final moments while working up the sweat of a lifetime. He took one shot and missed it, but by the time Cerritos had finished off an 81-60 victory, he was being cheered by the tearful Porterville fans, hugged by everyone in sight, and celebrated for representing all that is right about this increasingly cold world of sports.

“I know the rules, but the human part of me took over,” said May. “It was an incredible moment.”

Followed, sadly, by a series of even more incredible moments.

May was suspended for a game. Cerritos was ordered to forfeit the victory. And West was temporarily stripped of his uniform.

The extra loss cost the Falcons a first-round bye in the postseason tournament, where they distractedly lost that opening game to lower-seeded Copper Mountain in double overtime, their sterling season collapsing under the weight of the kindest of gestures.

The CCCAA had dropped the hammer, Cerritos College had administered the blow, and what was once so beautiful became broken.

May is still stunned.

“Yes, I broke a bylaw, but is this what our society has become?” he said. “Shouldn’t this be something we celebrate?”

Lucy Favro, West’s great aunt and caretaker, is still disheartened.

“It was such a beautiful moment, Coach May and the team saved Kade’s life, and then … how could that have happened?” she said.

Kade West still cries.

“It’s all my fault,” he signed.

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In an alley behind a Long Beach bungalow, the definition of determination can be found on the bodies of a light gray Kia and dark gray Honda.

The cars, parked next to a basketball goal, are riddled with pockmarks.

Kade West plays here.

“You can see how much he practices by the number of dents on the hoods,” said his cousin and guardian Sasha Svimonoff, smiling. “But, you know, they’re just cars.”

This is where West, a bearded 5-foot-10 force of nature, retreated in spring 2021 upon the death of his mother, Dijana, from bladder cancer.

He had lost the woman who raised him. He was lost in a world that didn’t quite know how to handle deafness and autism. He had no close friends, only bad childhood memories.

Growing up in Long Beach, he attended schools that literally strapped him down in his school-bus seat to control him. Despite the best efforts of his single mother, he had bounced around from classroom to classroom, passed off from one wretched situation to another by those unable to deal with his unique condition.

He finally found stability during his high school years at the Learning Center for the Deaf in Framingham, Mass. However, when he returned home upon completing the program, his mother was dying and his options were limited.

“He had been through a lot of trauma,” said Favro. “He needed something to help him survive.”

He found that escape in basketball, a sport he began playing as a 15-year-old. He loved it because it was a sport he could practice alone, a place he could be judged only by his effort.

“Basketball leveled the playing field,” said Svimonoff. “Basketball was a way he could communicate.”

Upon his mother’s death, he began playing so much, he would dribble the air out of his weathered basketballs. Soon the television in the bungalow’s family room was constantly tuned to YouTube videos of 15-year-old Lakers games. Soon a list of traits inspired by Kobe Bryant was carefully printed on a piece of yellow note paper taped to his wall, ideals like humility, unity, discipline, thankfulness.

“I love basketball, I adore it, it’s my girlfriend,” he recently signed. “Basketball is my whole world.”

Then, that summer, West’s family signed him up for a Cerritos College basketball class taught by Russ May, and the Falcons joined that world.

“He came up to me and said he wanted to play in the NBA,” said May. “And he worked like it.”

Through interpreters provided by the school, West would grill May and his coaches about how he could improve, then he would stay late after class to hone those skills. He joined several recreation leagues around Long Beach. When the Falcons began practice, he began showing up with the team, chasing balls, helping on drills, an unofficial manager.

“Kade worked harder than all of us,” said Jalen Shores, a sophomore point guard. “He would be there an hour before us, stay an hour after us. The love he has for basketball, he worked super hard, we were feeling for him.”

He stayed on the fringes of the team the entire 2021-22 season and remained with them last summer when he made a decision.

“He cut his hair, shaved his beard, and said he wanted to look nice because he was trying out for the team,” said Favro.

How could May put him on the roster? How could he not?

“He outworked everybody, he had so much hustle, so much determination, what choice did I have?” said May. “Kade had earned his spot.”

He warned West that he might not play very much. He didn’t even give him a uniform until after they had played four games. But, goodness, that uniform … West was so excited he grabbed whatever he was handed without checking the size.

“He comes home and it’s a XXL and he’s swimming in it,” said Svimonoff. “He doesn’t care. He puts it on and announces how good he looks.”

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The family applied to the CCCAA for the waiver appeal on Nov. 17 with the understanding that Cerritos already possessed the necessary paperwork. They were later told they needed to provide transcripts, a letter detailing his necessary accommodations and an explanation of his educational capabilities, which they did on Dec. 3.

The CCCAA and its Disability Appeals Board has a combined 12 working days to render a decision. When the team took its first trip of the year to Visalia in mid-December, even though the Falcons had already played 10 games and the family had initially applied a month earlier, the waiver had not yet been granted.

May informed the family that he was not yet eligible and should stay home. West went anyway, paying his own expenses just for a chance to hang out on the road with his guys. This is the same welcoming group that once invited West to join them on a bowling outing, marking another milestone.

“Kade told us it was the first time anybody had ever invited him anywhere,” said Favro.

He wanted to be in Visalia. His teammates wanted him to be in Visalia. And with 1:39 remaining and his team leading Porterville by 20, May wanted West on that court.

“I just thought, isn’t this what sports is all about?” he said.

After West’s brief appearance, he FaceTimed several members of his extended family with the dazed smile of a champion.

“He was over the moon,” said Favro. “Those two minutes meant the world to him.”

Yet that 1 minute and 39 seconds also meant enough trouble to damage a season.

First, the CCCAA suspended May for a game, the reasoning explained by executive director Jennifer Cardone in an email response to this columnist’s questions.

“The suggestion to suspend Coach May for *at least* one game was made to Cerritos College and the South Coast Conference after I learned that the coach intentionally played a student-athlete while ineligible …” Cardone wrote.

May did not argue.

“I wasn’t happy about it, but I accepted it, I understood it, fine, we move on,” he said.

But then it got worse. Four days after the Porterville game, when West showed up at the school for a trip to San Diego County, a school official refused to give him his uniform.

When the other players weren’t looking, West broke down in tears.

“He was heartbroken,” said Svimonoff. “He thought they had thrown him off the team. He just couldn’t understand.”

Rory Natividad, dean of athletics at Cerritos College, explained that the school was simply following the directive of the CCCAA.

“Unfortunately, the situation we’re in, we had to respond, obviously to the bylaws,” he said, adding, “Our normal process is that we don’t issue uniforms until they’re eligible … after we got the letter from the commissioner, we obviously had to respond at that point until we got the clearance.”

West was denied the uniform for two games before he was cleared for the rest of the season. But wait, it gets even worse. After assuming they were finished paying the price for their good deed, the Cerritos team was later ordered to forfeit the Porterville game. The loss dropped their final record to 19-10 and lowered their postseason seeding enough to cost them a first-round bye. West was certain he had caused all of it.

“He was devastated,” said May. “He was stigmatized.”

Cardone cited the precise wording in the association bylaws that mandates a “forfeiture of the contest,” in the event of “participation of an ineligible student-athlete.”

“The men’s basketball program intentionally played an ineligible student-athlete,” she wrote.

May had accepted the suspension, but the forfeit was too much. He sent emails to each of the 12 CCCAA board members. He didn’t receive one response.

“I just wanted someone to hear Kade’s story,” he said. “But nobody would listen.”

In her email, Cardone said her association supports student-athletes like West.

“Russ May and Cerritos College are to be commended for providing Mr. West an opportunity to be a part of something as valuable as being a member of a team,” she wrote. “The inclusion and compassion showed by the coaches and student-athletes exemplifies what we’re trying to do.”

If that is really the case, in Kade West’s situation they miserably failed.

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West quickly recovered from the humiliation. He always does. He finished the season with five appearances for 10 total minutes while sinking two baskets and a free throw.

“What happened wasn’t fair at all, but no hard feelings, and Kade kept working,” said Shores. “Every day at practice he would smile at us, wave to us, hug us, give us high-fives, bring the same energy every single time.”

There are a couple of video snippets of his triumphant plays. One of them is hard to watch. As the play proceeds, the videographer’s hand begins to shake.

“The person taking the video is stomping their feet like the rest of the crowd,” said Svimonoff.

West plans to play during his sophomore season. May plans on having him back. They will have to endure the waiver appeal process again. They say it’s worth it.

“I don’t guarantee any players spots on next year’s team but let’s just say, it will be difficult for me to foresee a reason not to have him on the team,” said May, who will be entering his 15th season.

West said he will earn that spot.

“Coach May cares for me,” he signed. “He won’t give up on me. I’ll practice hard and do the best I can.”

May said if faced again with the choice of playing an ineligible West, “I wouldn’t do anything different.”

Indeed, by summoning that praying player at the end of the bench, May did more than just make a substitution, he helped change a life.

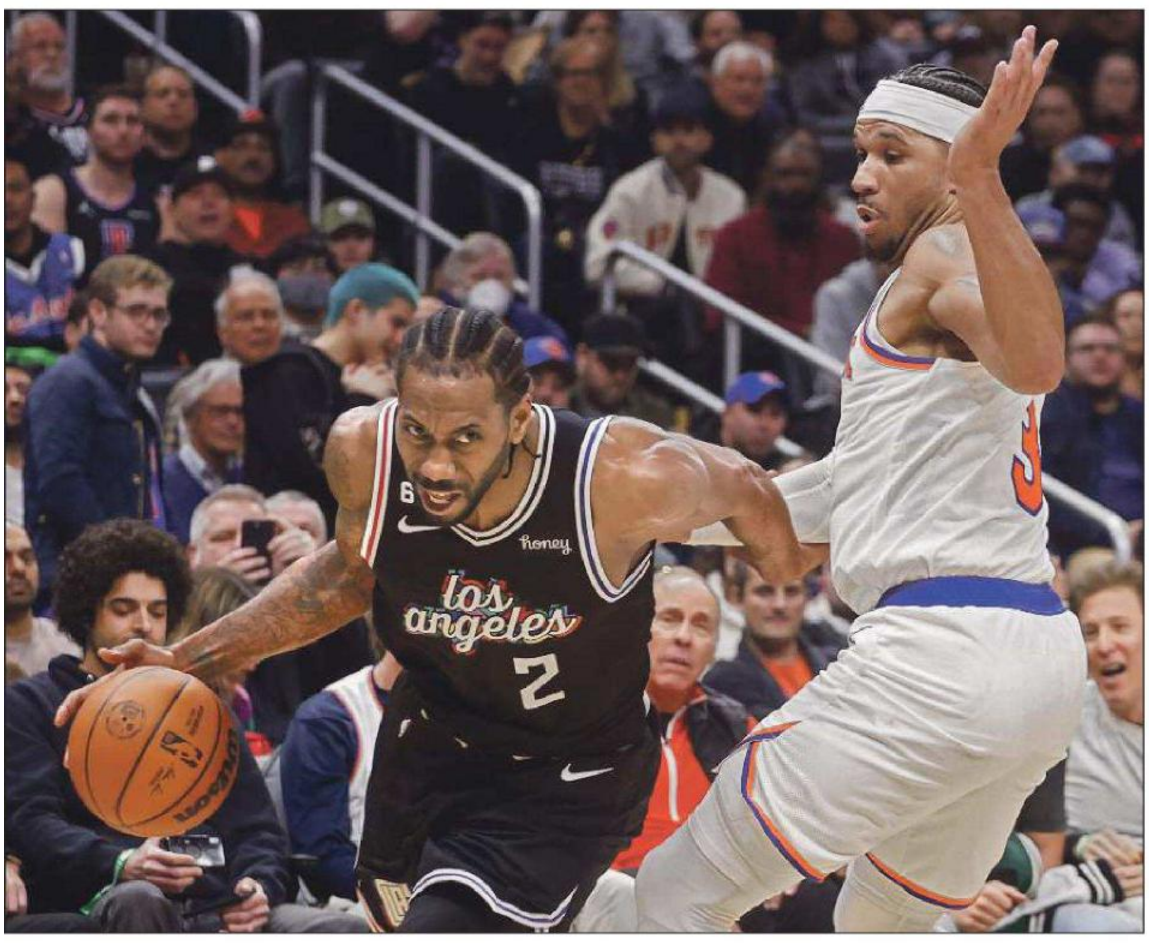
West is now working with a teacher on marketing a line of athletic clothing adorned with the logo K.A.D.E. … Keep Advocating for Deaf Empowerment.

“Kade is in a crack in the system, nobody knows what to do with him,” said Svimonoff. “The only people that have really shown him patience, respect and allowed him to be himself are the Cerritos basketball team.”

After the final game of the season, after May had delivered his final locker room speech and the final tear had been shed, a couple of kids started shooting baskets in the Cerritos gym.

West returned to the court in his street clothes and started playing with them. His family was waiting in the stands to take him home. He kept playing. And playing. And playing. They sat there for an hour. In a world that had now been opened, he once again closed down the gym.

“I love my team,” Kade West signed. “And my team loves me.”



RINGO H.W. CHIU Associated Press

FORWARD Kawhi Leonard, shown driving past Knicks guard Josh Hart, scored a game-high 38 points in 37 minutes to help the Clippers top New York 106-95 for their third victory in a row.

Leonard, George combine to score 60 points in victory

[**Clippers,** from D1]

lost five consecutive games after the All-Star break.

"It's funny what a couple of wins will do to your team," Lue said. "During that five-game stretch, we played some good games. … We've been playing some good basketball, we just haven't been able to finish the game out. So, I just told our guys to stick with it. It's going to come and the last three games we really have been able to lock in really good defensively."

In their last two wins, the Clippers gave up 100 points to Toronto and 95 to the Knicks. The Clippers gave up 129 points to the Grizzlies, 51 in the third quarter. Yet the Clippers shut down the Grizzlies in the fourth, holding them to 17.

That was the first sign of the Clippers trending in the right direction on defense.

"We took ownership with where this ship is going," George said. "And everybody is dialed into doing their job."

That started with Leonard against the Knicks.

He was 14-for-22 shooting from the field, three for six from three-point range, and he made all seven free throws.

Leonard made his biggest mark in the third quarter, scoring 19 points while playing all 12 minutes, often too much for the Knicks to handle.

"I got some open looks in that third quarter," Leonard said. "Started off attacking the basket, ending up getting and-ones. And then from there just shot the ball with confidence. PG finding me for some open threes and just pretty much carried us over from there."

When the Clippers took over the game in the fourth quarter, it was their defense that stood tall.

They shot 61.1% from the field in the fourth and held the Knicks to 27.8% shooting, 14.3% (one for seven) from three-point range.

The Clippers started strong in the fourth and pushed their lead to eight points.

It grew to 10 points later in the fourth when Leonard scored on a drive, was fouled and made the free throw for a three-point play.

It grew to 14 points later in the quarter on a Leonard 13-foot jumper.

The Clippers kept Knicks All-Star forward Julius Randle in check, holding him to 19 points on five-for-24 shooting, three for 10 on three-pointers.

In the middle of all of this, Russell Westbrook reached another milestone.

Westbrook had three assists against the Knicks and moved past Isiah Thomas for ninth place on the NBA's all-time assist leaderboard at 9,062.

"To be on that list is great," Westbrook said. "I think a point guard like myself, the different conversations that I've had to overcome over my career to be in the assists side is just special."

The 'energy is great' as Lakers roll to wins and rise in the West

With Davis on his game and the team vibing, L.A. closing in on playoff spot.

By Dan Woike

The vibes were sometimes off. And the inconsistent vibes led to inconsistent play.

It wasn't the basketball. It was other stuff that made the Lakers the team that was languishing at the bottom of the West with no momentum and less hope.

If this seems like a harsh criticism, check the source.

This is how Patrick Beverley assessed his former team on his podcast after the Lakers traded the veteran guard to Orlando.

In the time since the Lakers rebuilt their roster, the vibes now? They've been mostly immaculate and the consistent energy has led to consistent play.

There's an interesting question at the core of the Lakers' recent success — 8-3 in their last 11 games.

Are the Lakers such a happy team right now because they're winning or are they winning because they're such a happy team?

"It's both," Anthony Davis said after Friday's win over Toronto.

Davis' performance against the Raptors embodied it, the Lakers' best player comfortable with the talent around him as Toronto loaded up its defense in hopes of keeping him corralled.

"He understands what's working, what's not working, what's being given and what's being taken away. And the way he's been playing, teams are perked up," coach Darvin Ham said Saturday after watching film. "They're on high, extra alert towards him and his capabilities and what he's been doing. So, they're going to put one, two, three guys around him at all times.

"But he's a smart basketball player. He didn't get this far by accident. And the way he's able to navigate all of that and accept what the defense is doing and look for other options. … And now, we have a plethora of other options we can go to."

Five Lakers scored at least 10 points while Davis had eight against Toronto. The only time this season he scored fewer points was Dec. 6 against Cleveland, when he left the game minutes after tipoff because of an illness.

"Seven shots, five shots, no shots, 20 shots — like, as long as we win, I'm fine. I'm happy," Davis said Saturday on his 30th birthday. "And those guys carried the load a lot last night."

D'Angelo Russell's performance, with 16 of his 28 points coming in the fourth quarter, highlighted the win.

"The way we've tried to play the entire season, the pace of the game, it fits like a hand in glove with the style of play he has individually as a player," Ham said of Russell.

Even LeBron James, who wasn't on the bench for the last two games as he tries to work back from his foot injury, voiced his support, tweeting, "Man I love this team!!!" He posted a package of highlights from Friday's win on Instagram, as well.

"He's seen it. He can tell. He watches enough basketball," Davis said of James. "We talked after the Memphis game, but he's always … texting us, 'Great win,' things that he sees. So he's involved even though he's getting healthy. But like I said, the energy is great, is very high. Guys are happy. Guys are just happy to be winning."

The vibe improvement inside the locker room has been the result of a combination of factors — the veterans who left, the young players who entered, the increased sense of urgency and a clear collective goal of making the playoffs. The Lakers (33-34) are 1½ games out of sixth place and a guaranteed playoff spot.

"Communication has been our best friend," Davis said.

The ease with which the Lakers have been able to solve problems on the fly has been one of the most obvious changes, the distance between discussion and argument widening since they rebuilt their roster. It's why the team is in position to reach .500 for the first time since Jan. 25, 2022 with a win Sunday against the New York Knicks.

"We dug ourselves a hole. And we're trying to get ourselves out of it," Davis said. "It will be good to be .500 and also just get above it for the first time this year. So it was a rough start but we're changing things around."

STANDINGS

Standings have been arranged to reflect how the teams will be determined for the playoffs. Teams are ranked 1-15 by record. The top six teams in each conference qualify for the playoffs. Teams seven through 10 will participate in a play-in tournament with the top-seeded play-in team meeting the lowest qualifying play-in team. The next-lowest qualifying team would play the second, etc. Head-to-head competition is the first of several tiebreakers, followed by conference record. (Western Conference divisions: S-Southwest; P-Pacific; N-Northwest; Eastern Conference divisions: A-Atlantic; C-Central; S-Southeast).

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Denver	46	21	.687		7-3	N1
2. Memphis	40	26	.606	5½	6-4	S1
2. Sacramento	40	26	.606	5½	8-2	P1
4. Phoenix	37	30	.552	9	7-3	P2
5. CLIPPERS	36	33	.522	11	5-5	P3
6. Golden State	35	33	.515	11½	6-4	P4
7. Dallas	34	34	.500	12½	3-7	S2
7. Minnesota	34	34	.500	12½	4-6	N2
9. LAKERS	33	34	.493	13	7-3	P5
10. Utah	33	35	.485	13½	5-5	N3
11. New Orleans	32	35	.478	14	3-7	S3
11. Oklahoma City	32	35	.478	14	4-6	N4
13. Portland	31	36	.463	15	3-7	N5
14. San Antonio	17	49	.258	28½	3-7	S4
15. Houston	15	52	.224	31	2-8	S5

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Milwaukee	48	19	.716		8-2	C1
2. Boston	47	21	.691	1½	6-4	A1
3. Philadelphia	44	22	.667	3½	7-3	A2
4. Cleveland	42	27	.609	7	5-5	C2
5. Brooklyn	38	29	.567	10	5-5	A3
6. New York	39	30	.565	10	7-3	A4
7. Miami	36	33	.522	13	4-6	S1
8. Atlanta	34	34	.500	14½	5-5	S2
9. Toronto	32	36	.471	16½	5-5	A5
10. Chicago	31	36	.463	17	5-5	C3
10. Washington	31	36	.463	17	4-6	S3
12. Indiana	31	37	.456	17½	6-4	C4
13. Orlando	28	40	.412	20½	4-6	S4
14. Charlotte	22	47	.319	27	6-4	S5
15. Detroit	15	53	.221	30½	0-10	C5

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

CLIPPERS 106, New York 95	Utah 119, Charlotte 111
Indiana 121, Detroit 115	Orlando 126, Miami 114 (OT)
Boston 134, Atlanta 125	Chicago 119, Houston 111
Memphis 112, Dallas 108	Okla. City 110, New Orleans 96
Golden St. 125, Milw. 116 (OT)	Sacramento 128, Phoenix 119

TODAY'S GAMES

Favorite	Line	Underdog	Time
at LAKERS	OFF	New York	6 p.m.
at Denver	8	Brooklyn	12:30 p.m.
Cleveland	8	at Charlotte	2 p.m.
at Philadelphia	7½	Washington	3 p.m.
at New Orleans	OFF	Portland	4 p.m
at San Antonio	OFF	Oklahoma City	4 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

Through Friday's games

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Embiid, Philadelphia	53	586	540	1770	33.4
Doncic, Dallas	57	629	463	1879	33.0
Lillard, Portland	54	521	467	1736	32.1
Antetokounmpo, Milwaukee	52	574	431	1621	31.2
Gilgeous-Alexander, OKC	56	577	541	1745	31.2
Tatum, Boston	62	615	445	1881	30.3

CLIPPERS 106, KNICKS 95

NEW YORK

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Barrett	30	5-12	0-0	0-2	1	1	11
Randle	34	5-24	6-8	1-8	3	5	19
Robinson	28	2-8	2-2	8-14	1	0	6
Grimes	34	3-8	1-1	1-2	4	3	7
Quickley	42	8-18	7-8	4-10	4	2	26
Hart	32	3-6	4-4	3-8	4	3	10
Hartenstein	19	2-5	0-0	3-5	3	2	4
Toppin	13	4-9	2-2	0-5	1	0	10
McBride	5	0-0	2-2	0-0	0	1	2
Totals		32-90	24-27	20-54	21	17	95

Shooting: Field goals, 35.6%; free throws, 88.9%

Three-point goals: 7-31 (Quickley 3-8, Randle 3-10, Barrett 1-3, Hart 0-1, Hartenstein 0-1, Grimes 0-4, Toppin 0-4). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 3 (Robinson 2, McBride). Turnovers: 9 (Barrett 3, Hart 2, Randle 2, Robinson, Toppin). Steals: 5 (Barrett, Hartenstein, McBride, Quickley, Robinson). Technical Fouls: Randle, 00:00 third.

CLIPPERS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Leonard	36	14-22	7-7	0-4	2	2	38
Morris Sr.	30	4-7	0-0	1-5	1	4	11
Zubac	27	4-6	0-0	2-6	0	3	8
George	40	10-21	0-0	1-8	8	1	22
Westbrook	22	3-8	1-3	0-5	3	2	7
Gordon	25	4-9	0-1	0-2	3	3	10
Plumlee	20	1-4	4-5	2-4	1	3	6
Mann	18	1-6	0-0	0-1	3	1	2
Batum	16	1-4	0-0	1-4	1	1	2
Coffey	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		42-87	12-16	7-39	22	20	106

Shooting: Field goals, 48.3%; free throws, 75.0%

Three-point goals: 10-30 (Morris Sr. 3-4, Leonard 3-6, Gordon 2-5, George 2-8, Mann 0-2, Westbrook 0-2, Batum 0-3). Team Rebounds: 12. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 4 (Plumlee 2, George, Zubac). Turnovers: 8 (Westbrook 3, Plumlee 2, George, Leonard, Mann). Steals: 3 (George, Leonard, Westbrook). Technical Fouls: None.

New York	19	30	25	21— 95
CLIPPERS	20	27	29	30—106

A—19,068. T—2:14.

Bulls 119, Rockets 111

CHICAGO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Caruso	28	2-5	1-2	2-2	0	2	5
DeRozan	38	9-21	7-10	1-7	5	1	27
Vucevic	33	7-15	0-0	2-12	6	1	18
Beverley	33	6-7	0-0	5-10	5	4	16
LaVine	43	14-26	5-6	1-8	5	2	36
Williams	22	1-3	0-0	0-0	1	0	3
White	16	0-3	0-0	0-0	3	2	0
Drummond	13	4-4	3-4	2-5	0	3	11
Dosunmu	9	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	2	3
Totals		44-86	16-22	13-44	25	17	119

Shooting: Field goals, 51.2%; free throws, 72.7%

Three-point goals: 15-32 (Beverley 4-5, Vucevic 4-7, LaVine 3-8, DeRozan 2-3, Dosunmu 1-2, Williams 1-3, Caruso 0-2, White 0-2). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 9 (Williams 3, Caruso 2, DeRozan 2, Beverley, Dosunmu). Turnovers: 14 (DeRozan 4, LaVine 4, Drummond 2, Vucevic 2, Beverley, Caruso). Steals: 7 (Caruso 3, DeRozan, Drummond, LaVine, Vucevic). Technical Fouls: Bulls, 11:14 fourth.

HOUSTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Martin Jr.	30	6-11	2-3	0-1	1	1	16
Smith Jr.	36	8-14	2-2	3-10	2	3	20
Sengun	33	4-9	2-2	2-5	5	1	10
Jal.Green	35	7-14	1-3	0-2	7	1	18
Porter Jr.	33	5-13	3-4	0-4	4	3	15
Tate	22	3-10	2-2	0-5	6	2	9
Eason	21	4-6	0-0	1-4	1	5	12
Christopher	15	4-8	1-1	0-1	1	1	11
Garuba	12	0-0	0-0	0-1	1	2	0
Totals		41-85	13-17	6-33	28	19	111

Shooting: Field goals, 48.2%; free throws, 76.5%

Three-point goals: 16-34 (Eason 4-4, Jal.Green 3-7, Christopher 2-4, Martin Jr. 2-4, Smith Jr. 2-5, Porter Jr. 2-7, Tate 1-3). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (Smith Jr. 2, Sengun). Turnovers: 16 (Jal.Green 4, Eason 3, Tate 3, Sengun 2, Christopher, Martin Jr., Porter Jr., Smith Jr.). Steals: 10 (Sengun 3, Porter Jr. 2, Christopher, Eason, Jal.Green, Smith Jr., Tate). Technical Fouls: Martin Jr., 00:37 second.

Chicago	22	32	33	32—119
Houston	32	23	40	16—111

A—18,055. T—2:13.

Jazz 119, Hornets 111

UTAH

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Markkanen	35	3-22	6-6	4-13	3	1	13
Olynyk	30	7-9	1-1	0-6	0	2	17
Kessler	31	8-10	1-2	8-16	1	2	17
Agbaji	33	3-10	2-2	2-3	1	1	10
Horton-Tuckr	32	14-24	7-8	1-8	10	1	37
Dunn	15	3-8	1-1	1-3	5	1	7
Gay	14	2-6	0-0	0-0	0	1	4
D.Jones	13	0-1	0-0	1-2	1	4	0
Fontecchio	13	4-8	0-0	2-4	0	0	9
Juzang	10	1-3	0-0	0-1	0	3	3
Tscno-Andrsn	7	1-2	0-0	1-4	1	1	2
Totals		46-103	18-20	20-60	22	17	119

Shooting: Field goals, 44.7%; free throws, 90.0%

Three-point goals: 9-32 (Olynyk 2-3, Horton-Tucker 2-5, Agbaji 2-7, Fontecchio 1-2, Juzang 1-2, Markkanen 1-9, Dunn 0-2, Gay 0-2). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 4 (Kessler 3, Dunn). Turnovers: 11 (Horton-Tucker 3, Dunn 2, Olynyk 2, D.Jones, Juzang, Kessler, Markkanen). Steals: 4 (Agbaji, Dunn, Fontecchio, Olynyk). Technical Fouls: None.

CHARLOTTE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Hayward	34	4-10	2-2	0-3	4	0	11
Washington	31	7-16	0-0	0-7	2	1	18
Richards	30	4-7	1-1	2-8	1	3	9
Oubre Jr.	36	7-20	4-4	1-5	2	3	24
Rozier	33	10-23	0-0	1-6	8	4	22
Smith Jr.	24	4-11	3-4	1-3	5	3	13
K.Jones	17	2-5	2-2	3-5	0	0	6
McGowens	11	0-2	2-2	1-1	0	0	2
Thor	10	1-2	0-0	2-4	1	0	3
Mykhailiuk	8	1-2	0-0	0-1	1	1	3
Totals		40-98	14-15	11-43	24	15	111

Shooting: Field goals, 40.8%; free throws, 93.3%

Three-point goals: 17-40 (Oubre Jr. 6-12, Washington 4-8, Smith Jr. 2-3, Rozier 2-8, Mykhailiuk 1-1, Thor 1-2, Hayward 1-5, McGowens 0-1). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 14 (Richards 5, K.Jones 3, Smith Jr. 2, Washington 2, Oubre Jr., Rozier). Turnovers: 7 (Hayward 3, Washington 2, K.Jones, Smith Jr.). Steals: 5 (Rozier 2, Hayward, K.Jones, Mykhailiuk). Technical Fouls: None.

Utah	32	26	39	22—119
Charlotte	29	20	32	30—111

A—17,221. T—1:58.

Pacers 121, Pistons 115

INDIANA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Hield	27	7-15	0-0	2-8	2	2	17
Nesmith	20	1-5	4-6	0-3	2	2	6
Jackson	25	7-10	5-7	6-11	1	4	19
Duarte	32	2-11	1-1	2-6	0	4	6
Nembhard	32	6-15	5-6	0-3	8	0	19
Smith	25	7-11	5-6	3-9	1	2	20
Johnson	21	4-8	0-0	0-5	3	2	8
Brissett	19	3-5	5-6	3-7	1	0	11
Hill	17	2-4	0-0	1-4	5	1	4
Nwora	16	4-9	1-2	1-2	1	3	11
Totals		43-93	26-34	18-58	24	20	121

Shooting: Field goals, 46.2%; free throws, 76.5%

Three-point goals: 9-35 (Hield 3-8, Nwora 2-5, Nembhard 2-6, Smith 1-3, Duarte 1-6, Brissett 0-1, Hill 0-1, Johnson 0-2, Nesmith 0-3). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 6 (Jackson 2, Smith 2, Brissett, Johnson). Turnovers: 14 (Duarte 3, Hield 3, Hill 3, Nwora 3, Nembhard 2). Steals: 7 (Hield 2, Jackson 2, Duarte, Hill, Nwora). Technical Fouls: None.

DETROIT

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Bagley III	22	3-9	0-0	2-5	1	2	6
Livers	37	7-20	1-2	1-4	2	2	18
Wiseman	25	6-11	3-5	3-9	0	4	16
Hayes	36	7-17	3-4	0-6	13	1	17
McGruder	23	3-6	2-2	0-3	1	4	11
Joseph	27	5-8	0-0	0-0	6	3	12
Omoruyi	26	5-9	0-0	1-3	0	3	11
Duren	20	4-8	8-10	5-11	1	3	16
Hampton	20	3-6	1-4	0-1	1	2	8
Totals		43-94	18-27	12-42	25	24	115

Shooting: Field goals, 45.7%; free throws, 66.7%

Three-point goals: 11-34 (McGruder 3-5, Livers 3-10, Joseph 2-3, Omoruyi 1-3, Wiseman 1-3, Hampton 1-4, Bagley III 0-2, Hayes 0-4). Team Rebounds: 12. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 7 (Duren 2, Livers 2, Hayes, Omoruyi, Wiseman). Turnovers: 12 (Hayes 5, Wiseman 2, Bagley III, Hampton, Joseph, McGruder, Omoruyi). Steals: 7 (Livers 4, Hayes 2, Joseph). Technical Fouls: None.

Indiana	35	34	21	31—121
Detroit	30	27	33	25—115

A—20,190. T—2:13.

Celtics 134, Hawks 125

BOSTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brown	37	10-18	3-4	0-5	7	3	24
Tatum	35	12-25	5-6	0-15	6	5	34
Horford	32	3-7	0-0	0-4	3	2	9
Smart	35	4-12	0-0	1-1	6	3	11
White	36	7-10	2-2	1-4	7	3	18
Brogdon	25	8-12	0-0	0-4	5	1	18
Hauser	21	4-5	0-0	0-2	0	2	12
B.Griffin	15	4-6	0-0	3-5	1	2	8
Totals		52-95	10-12	5-40	35	21	134

Shooting: Field goals, 54.7%; free throws, 83.3%

Three-point goals: 20-42 (Tatum 5-14, Hauser 4-5, Horford 3-5, Smart 3-6, Brogdon 2-3, White 2-4, Brown 1-5). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 6 (Horford 2, B.Griffin, Smart, Tatum, White). Turnovers: 8 (Brogdon 3, Smart 2, B.Griffin, Brown, Tatum). Steals: 6 (Brown 2, B.Griffin, Brogdon, Horford, White). Technical Fouls: Smart, 1:25 fourth.

ATLANTA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Collins	29	5-13	1-1	0-9	1	4	11
Hunter	39	7-12	0-0	1-3	2	3	16
Capela	21	6-6	0-0	4-9	0	2	12
Murray	39	7-18	0-0	0-4	4	0	14
Young	33	12-27	7-7	1-3	13	2	35
Bey	25	6-9	1-1	1-5	0	2	17
Okongwu	22	4-5	3-3	5-8	2	1	11
Johnson	18	3-6	1-2	0-4	2	2	7
A.Griffin	8	0-4	2-2	1-3	0	1	2
Holiday	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		50-100	15-16	13-48	24	17	125

Shooting: Field goals, 50.0%; free throws, 93.8%

Three-point goals: 10-34 (Bey 4-7, Young 4-11, Hunter 2-6, A.Griffin 0-2, Johnson 0-2, Collins 0-3, Murray 0-3). Team Rebounds: 1. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 4 (Collins, Hunter, Johnson, Okongwu). Turnovers: 10 (Murray 4, Young 3, Capela, Collins, Hunter). Steals: 4 (Murray 3, Bey). Technical Fouls: Young, 1:25 fourth.

Boston	37	34	30	33—134
Atlanta	38	23	28	36—125

A—17,884. T—2:12.

Magic 126, Heat 114, OT

MIAMI

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Butler	39	14-25	8-8	1-5	2	2	38
Love	17	0-1	4-4	0-4	2	1	4
Adebayo	42	7-17	0-0	1-7	3	3	14
Herro	26	6-13	0-0	0-5	3	0	14
Vincent	37	5-10	2-2	1-2	1	4	13
Lowry	36	4-8	1-2	0-2	4	4	12
Strus	32	3-5	0-0	1-4	1	1	8
Oladipo	23	3-13	2-2	0-3	3	1	9
Yurtseven	7	0-1	0-0	1-1	0	1	0
Zeller	3	0-1	2-2	0-2	0	0	2
Cain	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		42-94	19-20	5-35	19	17	114

Shooting: Field goals, 44.7%; free throws, 95.0%

Three-point goals: 11-37 (Lowry 3-6, Strus 2-4, Herro 2-6, Butler 2-7, Vincent 1-4, Oladipo 1-8, Love 0-1, Zeller 0-1). Team Rebounds: 13. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 2 (Lowry, Oladipo). Turnovers: 17 (Adebayo 4, Herro 3, Lowry 3, Butler 2, Oladipo 2, Vincent 2, Love). Steals: 8 (Lowry 2, Oladipo 2, Butler, Love, Strus, Vincent). Technical Fouls: Lowry, 6:33 fourth

ORLANDO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Banchero	42	5-14	6-6	2-10	9	1	17
F.Wagner	28	7-10	2-4	4-8	6	2	17
Carter Jr.	41	12-17	1-2	2-11	2	1	27
Fultz	38	6-15	0-0	2-4	8	5	12
G.Harris	26	4-13	0-0	0-1	2	1	11
Anthony	33	5-9	5-5	1-6	3	5	16
Suggs	27	5-10	2-2	3-5	4	3	16
Bol	11	1-2	0-0	0-4	0	0	2
M.Wagner	11	3-8	1-1	1-5	0	1	8
Okeke	2	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Houstan	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		48-99	17-20	15-54	34	20	126

Shooting: Field goals, 48.5%; free throws, 85.0%

Three-point goals: 13-37 (Suggs 4-6, G.Harris 3-10, Carter Jr. 2-7, Anthony 1-1, Banchero 1-3, F.Wagner 1-3, M.Wagner 1-4, Bol 0-1, Fultz 0-1, Okeke 0-1). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 10 (Suggs 3, Fultz 2, G.Harris 2, Anthony, Bol, F.Wagner). Turnovers: 18 (Fultz 6, Anthony 3, Banchero 3, Suggs 3, Carter Jr., F.Wagner, Okeke). Steals: 10 (Suggs 4, G.Harris 3, Fultz 2, Carter Jr.). Technical Fouls: Magic, 10:40 second.

Miami	24	31	23	30	6—114
Orlando	34	24	23	27	18—126

A—17,347. T—2:30.

Grizzlies 112, Mavericks 108

DALLAS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Bullock	31	3-9	0-0	2-5	1	1	7
Hardaway Jr.	36	8-15	3-5	1-6	2	2	23
Powell	18	1-2	2-4	2-5	3	3	4
Green	33	9-16	0-0	3-10	4	4	21
Hardy	37	9-21	1-4	1-2	3	1	22
Kleber	25	1-3	1-2	1-8	4	3	4
Wright IV	20	1-2	2-2	0-4	5	1	4
Wood	15	4-8	6-6	0-2	1	0	14
Holiday	13	1-4	0-0	0-1	1	1	3
Bertans	6	2-5	0-0	0-0	1	1	6
Totals		39-85	15-23	10-43	25	17	108

Shooting: Field goals, 45.9%; free throws, 65.2%

Three-point goals: 15-43 (Hardaway Jr. 4-8, Green 3-6, Hardy 3-9, Bertans 2-5, Holiday 1-3, Kleber 1-3, Bullock 1-6, Wright IV 0-1, Wood 0-2). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (Hardaway Jr. 2, Kleber). Turnovers: 11 (Green 3, Hardaway Jr. 3, Hardy 3, Bullock, Wood). Steals: 4 (Bertans 2, Bullock, Hardy). Technical Fouls: None.

MEMPHIS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brooks	33	3-9	1-2	0-5	3	3	8
Jackson Jr.	33	3-12	8-9	1-7	0	3	14
Tillman	27	6-8	0-0	6-8	2	1	12
Bane	34	8-18	7-8	1-7	8	3	25
Jones	33	3-9	4-4	0-4	10	0	11
Aldama	22	5-10	0-0	2-5	1	2	10
Roddy	22	10-13	0-1	1-4	0	0	24
Kennard	20	3-7	0-0	0-3	1	2	8
Konchar	11	0-0	0-0	0-2	0	2	0
Totals		41-86	20-24	11-45	25	16	112

Shooting: Field goals, 47.7%; free throws, 83.3%

Three-point goals: 10-38 (Roddy 4-7, Bane 2-5, Kennard 2-6, Jones 1-5, Brooks 1-6, Aldama 0-4, Jackson Jr. 0-5). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 5 (Jackson Jr. 2, Aldama, Roddy, Tillman). Turnovers: 11 (Bane 3, Tillman 3, Roddy 2, Aldama, Brooks, Jackson Jr.). Steals: 7 (Kennard 2, Roddy 2, Brooks, Jones, Tillman). Technical Fouls: None.

Dallas	23	27	33	25—108
Memphis	27	29	21	35—112

A—17,794. T—2:09.

Thunder 110, Pelicans 96

OKLAHOMA CITY

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Dort	37	2-8	3-4	0-2	5	4	8
Jal.Williams	36	7-10	3-3	1-4	2	0	17
Jay.Williams	19	3-5	1-2	0-3	0	3	9
Giddey	32	8-12	2-4	1-7	4	1	19
Gilgous-Alxndr	37	11-23	13-13	1-6	2	3	35
Joe	28	3-7	0-0	0-4	1	1	9
Saric	19	1-6	2-2	0-6	2	2	4
Waters III	17	2-7	0-0	0-3	1	2	6
Dieng	9	0-2	3-4	1-2	0	1	3
Wiggins	1	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Totals		37-80	27-32	4-38	17	17	110

Shooting: Field goals, 46.3%; free throws, 84.4%

Three-point goals: 9-28 (Joe 3-7, Jay.Williams 2-3, Waters III 2-7, Giddey 1-1, Dort 1-5, Dieng 0-2, Saric 0-3). Team Rebounds: 12. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 2 (Gilgeous-Alexander, Jay.Williams). Turnovers: 11 (Giddey 3, Jal.Williams 3, Waters III 2, Gilgeous-Alexander, Jay.Williams, Saric). Steals: 11 (Gilgeous-Alexander 4, Jal.Williams 3, Dort 2, Dieng, Saric). Technical Fouls: Thunder, 1:53 first.

NEW ORLEANS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Marshall	35	6-12	0-0	0-8	2	4	15
Murphy III	40	5-12	3-4	2-4	2	4	15
Valanciunas	16	4-6	4-5	2-4	1	3	13
Jones	18	2-3	0-0	0-2	1	5	4
McCollum	38	8-20	6-6	1-7	8	3	26
Hayes	31	5-8	1-1	2-8	2	4	11
Richardson	26	2-10	1-1	1-4	1	2	6
Daniels	24	2-7	0-0	0-6	5	0	5
Lewis Jr.	7	0-3	1-2	0-0	1	0	1
Totals		34-81	16-19	8-43	23	25	96

Shooting: Field goals, 42.0%; free throws, 84.2%

Three-point goals: 12-34 (McCollum 4-7, Marshall 3-6, Murphy III 2-7, Valanciunas 1-1, Daniels 1-5, Richardson 1-6, Jones 0-1, Lewis Jr. 0-1). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 4 (Hayes 2, Murphy III, Richardson). Turnovers: 22 (Marshall 7, McCollum 5, Valanciunas 3, Daniels 2, Hayes 2, Jones 2, Murphy III). Steals: 3 (Richardson 2, Daniels). Technical Fouls: Valanciunas, 5:59 second.

Oklahoma City	32	31	24	23—110
New Orleans	22	22	28	24— 96

A—17,606. T—2:14.

Warriors 125, Bucks 116, OT

MILWAUKEE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Middleton	33	7-14	2-4	2-3	5	5	19
Portis	31	5-11	3-3	2-13	2	0	15
Lopez	38	8-16	2-2	1-7	1	1	19
Allen	31	5-13	0-0	0-3	2	0	12
Holiday	39	7-22	0-0	1-9	8	3	18
Ingles	32	5-6	0-0	0-5	7	1	15
Connaughton	23	1-7	0-0	0-3	1	0	3
Carter	20	5-10	0-0	0-2	1	4	13
Crowder	14	0-1	2-2	1-3	1	0	2
Totals		43-100	9-11	7-48	28	14	116

Shooting: Field goals, 43.0%; free throws, 81.8%

Three-point goals: 21-51 (Ingles 5-6, Holiday 4-11, Middleton 3-4, Carter 3-7, Portis 2-2, Allen 2-9, Connaughton 1-5, Lopez 1-6, Crowder 0-1). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 7 (Lopez 5, Allen, Holiday). Turnovers: 17 (Holiday 6, Middleton 4, Ingles 2, Lopez 2, Allen, Crowder, Portis). Steals: 9 (Middleton 4, Ingles 2, Connaughton, Holiday, Lopez). Technical Fouls: None.

GOLDEN STATE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
DiVincenzo	37	7-16	0-0	2-10	3	3	20
D.Green	35	2-10	0-0	2-13	9	0	5
Looney	36	3-11	1-2	7-15	4	2	7
Curry	43	13-27	4-4	1-6	4	1	36
Thompson	32	8-16	2-2	1-3	3	4	22
Poole	25	4-13	3-3	1-2	4	1	13
J.Green	23	7-10	0-0	1-6	1	2	18
Jerome	14	0-5	0-0	0-1	3	0	0
Iguodala	10	1-2	0-0	2-5	2	1	2
Moody	6	1-2	0-0	1-4	0	1	2
Totals		46-112	10-11	18-65	33	15	125

Shooting: Field goals, 41.1%; free throws, 90.9%

Three-point goals: 23-55 (DiVincenzo 6-12, Curry 6-15, J.Green 4-6, Thompson 4-9, Poole 2-5, D.Green 1-4, Iguodala 0-1, Moody 0-1, Jerome 0-2). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 4 (Curry, DiVincenzo, Iguodala, J.Green). Turnovers: 15 (Curry 5, Poole 4, D.Green 2, Thompson 2, DiVincenzo, Iguodala). Steals: 12 (Looney 5, Curry 2, DiVincenzo 2, J.Green, Poole, Thompson). Technical Fouls: None.

Milwaukee	26	23	28	34	5—116
Golden State	28	22	30	31	14—125

A—18,064. T—2:32.

Kings 128, Suns 119

SACRAMENTO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Barnes	36	6-10	6-6	2-6	0	0	19
Murray	15	0-3	0-0	0-0	1	3	0
Sabonis	35	5-10	7-10	3-8	4	1	17
Fox	33	8-22	0-2	0-4	6	3	18
Huerter	18	2-7	4-4	0-2	0	3	9
Edwards	25	4-6	2-2	1-7	1	5	12
Monk	24	5-10	4-5	0-4	5	2	18
Lyles	21	4-8	2-2	1-4	1	1	13
Mitchell	15	5-7	1-1	0-1	1	0	13
Metu	12	2-2	5-5	1-3	0	1	9
Totals		41-85	31-37	8-39	19	19	128

Shooting: Field goals, 48.2%; free throws, 83.8%

Three-point goals: 15-35 (Monk 4-6, Lyles 3-5, Edwards 2-4, Mitchell 2-4, Fox 2-6, Huerter 1-3, Barnes 1-4, Murray 0-3). Team Rebounds: 15. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 2 (Monk, Murray). Turnovers: 15 (Sabonis 3, Barnes 2, Edwards 2, Huerter 2, Lyles 2, Monk 2, Fox, Mitchell). Steals: 10 (Metu 3, Fox 2, Monk 2, Sabonis 2, Edwards). Technical Fouls: None.

PHOENIX

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Craig	27	1-5	2-4	1-7	1	2	4
Okogie	34	4-10	4-5	0-2	0	1	15
Ayton	37	9-15	4-5	2-12	0	2	22
Booker	38	11-19	4-4	1-3	8	5	28
Paul	38	6-13	2-2	0-6	16	2	16
Ross	22	7-13	0-0	1-1	1	3	18
Wainright	14	1-7	0-0	2-3	1	2	3
Payne	6	2-3	0-0	0-1	2	3	5
Biyombo	5	1-1	0-0	0-2	0	0	2
Landale	5	1-2	2-2	0-2	1	2	4
D.Lee	3	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	2
Warren	3	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	3	0
Totals		44-89	18-22	7-40	30	26	119

Shooting: Field goals, 49.4%; free throws, 81.8%

Three-point goals: 13-44 (Ross 4-10, Okogie 3-6, Booker 2-6, Paul 2-9, Payne 1-2, Wainright 1-6, Landale 0-1, Craig 0-4). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (Ayton 2, Okogie). Turnovers: 14 (Booker 4, Paul 3, Ross 2, Ayton, Craig, Okogie, Payne, Wainright). Steals: 11 (Booker 3, Ayton 2, Craig 2, Ross 2, Okogie, Paul). Technical Fouls: Ayton, 3:15 first.

Sacramento	31	36	29	32—128
Phoenix	32	27	36	24—119

A—17,071. T—2:27.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023 ■ LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR WSCE

Los Angeles Times
CALENDAR

OSCARS MAKE A STAND

Our guide to tonight's Academy Awards, a comeback story in the making. Check out Glenn Whipp's predictions, cringe along to the 2003 ceremony, and see what's on Justin Chang's viewing party menu. **E2-6**

Jason Allen Lee For The Times

SERA GAMBLE BREAKS 'YOU' DOWN **E7** | AN ODE TO L.A.'S REFUGEE ARTISTS **E8** | NBA GAME CHANGERS **E10**

GOLDEN DESTINY AWAITS FOR ...

WILL 'EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE' TAKE EVERYTHING AT THE OSCARS? PROBABLY SO, BUT THERE COULD BE SOME SURPRISES. **GLENN WHIPP** COLUMNIST

IT'S BEEN A YEAR AND A DAY since "Everything Everywhere All at Once" premiered at South by Southwest in Austin, Texas. No one proclaimed it an Oscar contender then. But that was before it became a box office hit, before we were reintroduced to Ke Huy Quan, before Jamie Lee Curtis turned into a weapon of mass promotion. ¶ Now, with the Oscars finally here, this loopy, frenetic family drama appears poised to win best picture, along with several other awards. ¶ If it duplicates its showing at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, netting individual honors for Quan and Curtis along with star Michelle Yeoh, "Everything Everywhere All at Once" would become just the third movie to win three acting Oscars. (The others: "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "Network.") ¶ That would be *a lot*, particularly because in the last decade or so, Oscar voters have spread the love each year among several movies. The last best picture winner to take more than four Oscars? That was "The Artist" in 2012, a triumph that, like many other moments in Oscar history, hasn't aged particularly well. ¶ The thing is, it feels like ages since "Everything Everywhere All at Once" lost. Anything. The movie swept through the Producers Guild, the Directors Guild, the Screen Actors Guild and the Independent Spirit awards. How many hot dog finger high-fives will be happening at the 95th Academy Awards on Sunday? Here are my final predictions in the key categories.

PICTURE
"All Quiet on the Western Front"
"Avatar: The Way of Water"
"The Banshees of Inisherin"
"Elvis"
"Everything Everywhere All at Once"
"The Fabelmans"
"Tár"
"Top Gun: Maverick"
"Triangle of Sadness"
"Women Talking"
Will win: "Everything Everywhere All at Once"

As voting began, I was on the phone with a motion picture academy member who insisted that despite its awards season dominance, "Everything Everywhere All at Once" would not win best picture. So what's going to win, I asked. After a long silence, they replied, "I don't know. But it can't be *that*."

For a lot of academy members, "Everything Everywhere All at Once," with its googly eyed rocks, hot dog fingers and weaponized dildos, has been a test of both their patience and belief in traditional storytelling. I find that reaction weirder than anything in the movie. At its heart, "Everything Everywhere" is a classic tale of a marriage coming apart and a family that needs healing. It's a broadside against despair and nihilism. It practically ends with a group hug, and watching that, *feeling* that, has been therapeutic for a lot of people, many of whom vote for awards.

DIRECTOR
Martin McDonagh, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert (a.k.a. Daniels), "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
Steven Spielberg, "The Fabelmans"
Todd Field, "Tár"
Ruben Östlund, "Triangle of Sadness"
Will win: Kwan and Scheinert
Could surprise: Spielberg

The other grievance — usually aired by people not old enough to know better — is that if "The Fabelmans" had been directed by anyone other than Spielberg, it wouldn't have been interesting. That's like arguing that Paul McCartney's touching tribute to John Lennon, "Here Today," wouldn't be as affecting if it had been written by another songwriter. Guess what? Artists have legacies. And one of the abiding pleasures in following a filmmaker or actor over time is the relationship you build with their work. Every movie Spielberg has made is personal. With "The Fabelmans," it just went deeper, with Spielberg taking a tough, tender look at his parents and examining how art can help you work through pain while simultaneously providing a measure of remove. It's a terrific movie on every level — and one that doesn't look like it'll make good on any of its seven Oscar nominations.

LEAD ACTRESS
Cate Blanchett, "Tár"
Ana de Armas, "Blonde"
Andrea Riseborough, "To Leslie"
Michelle Williams, "The Fabelmans"
Michelle Yeoh, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
Will win: Yeoh
Could surprise: Blanchett

All the momentum appears to be with Yeoh and, outside of those triggered by the playful creativity of "Everything Everywhere All at Once," I think most people would enjoy seeing her at the podium. And yet ... this race reminds me a bit of the year Anthony Hopkins won a second Oscar for his magnificent work in "The Father," prevailing over sentimental favorite Chadwick Boseman. Is Blanchett so awe-inspiring as the monstrous maestro in "Tár" that she can overcome the "Everything Everywhere All at Once" steamroller? Maybe. But she does already have two Oscars and hasn't seemed particularly invested in winning a third. And as Yeoh serves as the spiritual center of her beloved movie, I think she has the edge.

LEAD ACTOR
Austin Butler, "Elvis"
Colin Farrell, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
Brendan Fraser, "The Whale"
Paul Mescal, "Aftersun"
Bill Nighy, "Living"
Will win: Butler
Could surprise: Fraser

If Fraser prevailed for "The Whale," would it become the worst movie to feature an Oscar-winning performance? Let's just say that it'd be in the conversation. Not everyone agrees, of course. Fraser did win the Screen Actors Guild Awards honor for a stirring performance in a hateful film almost completely lacking empathy and compassion. But "The Whale" did not earn a best picture nomination, partly because voters didn't want to subject themselves to its exploitative aesthetic. Those who tried watching it on the academy's portal found it dark and dingy. Did anyone make it through to the end?

Butler, meanwhile, delivered an electrifying star turn in "Elvis," a movie that earned eight Oscar nominations, including best picture. Sure, it's kind of funny that he still talks like Elvis. But if I had mastered that honeysuckle tone, I might not want to return so fast to my Orange County roots, either. Plus, did you see him walking Sally Field and Jennifer Coolidge onstage at the SAG Awards? Chivalry is not dead!

SUPPORTING ACTRESS
Angela Bassett, "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever"
Hong Chau, "The Whale"
Kerry Condon, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
Jamie Lee Curtis, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
Stephanie Hsu, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
Will win: Condon
Could surprise: Curtis

Let me state from the outset that I have no idea who is going to win this Oscar. Not long ago, I thought it'd be either Bassett or Curtis, women who haven't won many awards for decades of exemplary work. One of them could still win, though their similar narratives don't help their cause. And then there's this: Beginning with Patricia Arquette winning for "Boyhood" in 2015, the last eight winners of this category have taken the only Oscar from their film. It's a weird stat ... but supporting actress has long been a quirky category full of surprise winners. Just ask Marisa Tomei. And as I don't think "Banshees" is going to win anything else ...

SUPPORTING ACTOR
Brendan Gleeson, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
Brian Tyree Henry, "Causeway"
Judd Hirsch, "The Fabelmans"
Barry Keoghan, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
Ke Huy Quan, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
Will win: Quan

If you aren't familiar by now with Quan's comeback story or haven't cried along with him during one of the many speeches he's made while accepting awards for his masterful multiverse hopping in "Everything Everywhere All at Once," then you must be just waking up from a year-long coma. Go watch his movie. And then check out last year's Oscars. That thing between Will Smith and Chris Rock? It wasn't a scripted bit.

ADAPTED SCREENPLAY
"All Quiet on the Western Front," Edward Berger, Lesley Paterson & Ian Stokell
"Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery," Rian Johnson

Illustrations by
Jason Allen Lee
For The Times

1. "Top Gun: Maverick"
2. "The Fabelmans"
3. "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
4. "The Banshees of Inisherin" **5.** "Triangle of Sadness" **6.** "All Quiet on the Western Front"
7. "Elvis" **8.** "Avatar: The Way of Water"
9. "Women Talking"
10. "Tár"

8

“Living,” Kazuo Ishiguro
“Top Gun: Maverick,” Ehren Kruger and Eric Warren Singer and Christopher McQuarrie; story by Peter Craig and Justin Marks
“Women Talking,” Sarah Polley

Will win: “Women Talking”

Could surprise: “All Quiet on the Western Front”

Polley’s sensitive and thoughtful adaptation of Miriam Toews’ 2018 novel about sexual assault clocks in at 104 minutes, a testimony to her skill and precision as a writer. Her extraordinary work has been marked as a favorite for this Oscar since its premiere at the Telluride Film Festival, and, after winning the Writers Guild and USC Scripter awards, it looks like Polley will indeed prevail.

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

“The Banshees of Inisherin,” Martin McDonagh
“Everything Everywhere All at Once,” Daniel Kwan & Daniel Scheinert
“The Fabelmans,” Steven Spielberg & Tony Kushner
“Tár,” Todd Field
“Triangle of Sadness,” Ruben Östlund

Will win: “Everything Everywhere All at Once”

Could surprise: “The Banshees of Inisherin”

For Daniels, those hot dog fingers would come in handy for lugging around three (!) (?) Oscars.

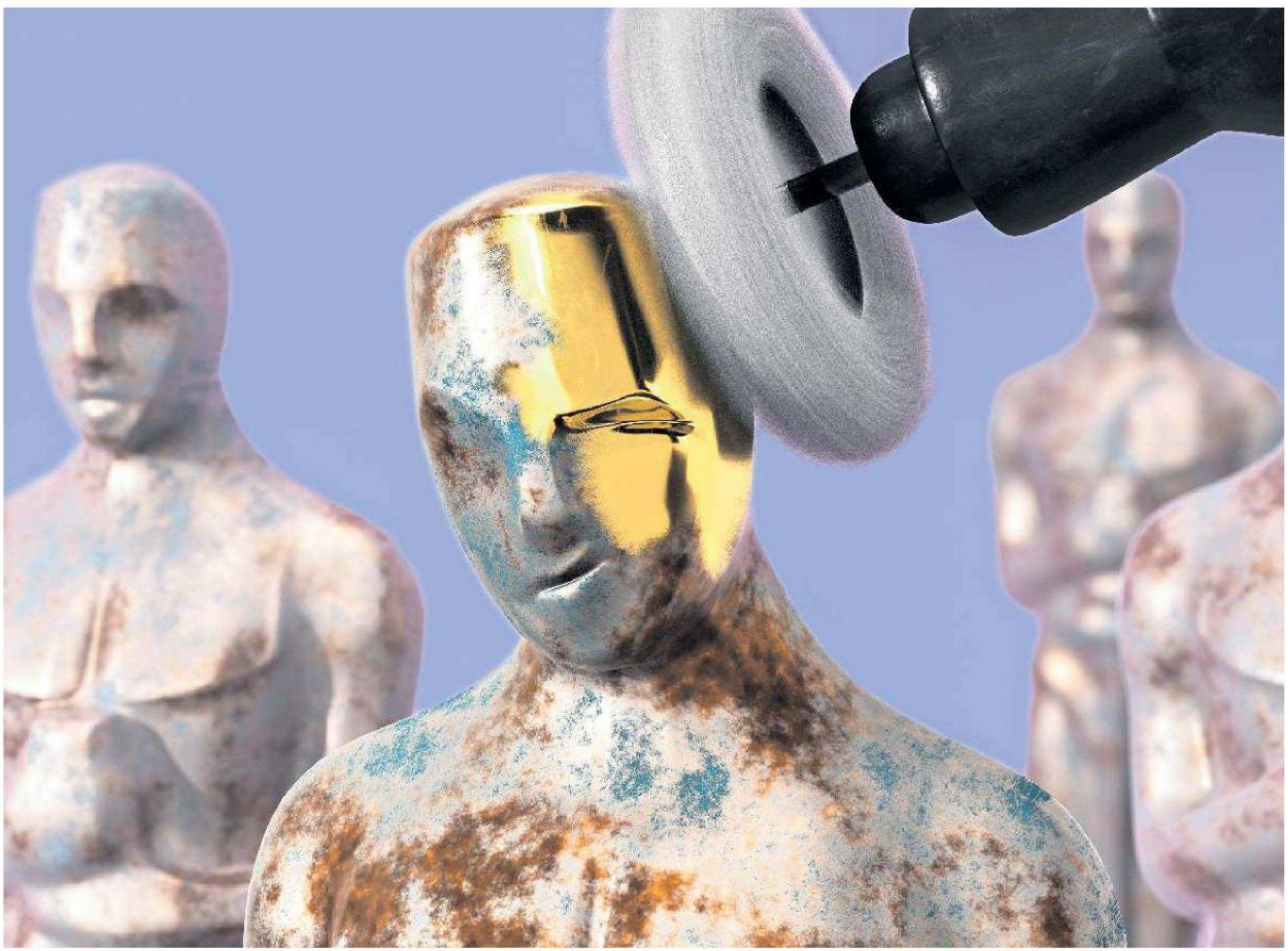


Illustration by Michael Rodriguez For The Times

CAN THE SHINE BE RESTORED?

AFTER TWO BRUISING YEARS, PRODUCERS HOPE TO REVITALIZE THE AWARDS. BUT MEMBERS CAN’T AGREE ON WHAT THAT WILL TAKE. **BY JOSH ROTTENBERG**

HOLLYWOOD LOVES a good comeback story, and this year’s Academy Awards will feature a few of them. ¶ There’s former matinee idol Brendan Fraser, whose turn as a morbidly obese teacher in “The Whale” has earned him a lead actor nomination. There’s one-time child star Ke Huy Quan, who scored a supporting actor nod for “Everything Everywhere All at Once” three decades after stepping away from acting. ¶ Then there are the Oscars themselves, which will be looking for their own shot at redemption on Sunday night. ¶ For those responsible for mounting the Academy Awards — and the millions more who love to watch them — the last two years have been difficult. The 2021 Oscars, dampened by the COVID-19 pandemic, delivered the lowest ratings in the show’s history. Last year’s telecast was preceded by weeks of bitter infighting over the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences’ decision to shift eight less-starry categories out of the live telecast, then shockingly derailed when Will Smith struck Chris Rock onstage over a joke about his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith.

Even as reverberations from last year’s calamitous telecast continue to be felt — with Rock delivering a blistering 10-minute rejoinder to the Slap in his new Netflix stand-up special — academy leaders hope to turn the page. The producers of this year’s telecast are banking that the inclusion of a handful of bona fide box office smashes in the best picture race, including “Top Gun: Maverick,” “Avatar: The Way of Water” and “Elvis,” will help boost interest in the show.

“We have a lot to celebrate,” says Ricky Kirshner, who is co-producing this year’s telecast with Glenn Weiss. “We have movies that people have seen, big blockbusters with big movie stars, like ‘Top Gun.’ And there’s some great horse races in a lot of different categories, so you’ll need to stay until the end to see who’s going to win this or that award.”

For the beleaguered film industry, which is struggling to return to its pre-pandemic health and beset by nervous chatter about a possible writers’ strike, the Oscars offer a welcome opportunity to self-soothe in a familiar ritual of glamour and joy. Still, there’s no denying the existential challenges facing Hollywood’s biggest night, as the entertainment landscape grows ever more fragmented, pushing movies further from the center of the cultural conversation.

While ratings for the 2022 telecast rebounded from the previous year’s all-time low, it was still the second-lowest-rated show in Oscars history, averaging 15.4 million viewers, down from more than 40 million a decade ago. Last year’s best picture winner, Apple’s heartwarming drama “CODA,” marked the first time a streaming service claimed the academy’s top prize, but it earned just $2 million in theaters.

In a telling sign of the diminished status of the Oscars as a must-watch event, HBO — which shifted an episode of its buzzy hit series “The Last of Us” out of the path of the Super Bowl last month — will air the show’s season finale directly opposite the awards telecast.

For an academy that has dramatically swelled in size in recent years to more than 10,000 members, reaching a consensus on how to fix the Oscars — or, indeed, agreeing that they fundamentally need fixing — has proved difficult.

In an effort to revive flagging enthusiasm for the Oscars and trim the show’s notoriously bloated running time, last year the academy shifted eight below-the-line and short-film categories out of the live telecast. In a letter to the group’s members announcing the decision, then-academy President David Rubin wrote, “We must prioritize the television audience to increase viewer engagement and keep the show vital, kinetic, and relevant.”

After fierce blowback from rank-and-file members, the academy walked back the decision — which failed to produce a shorter show — and announced that this year all 23 awards will be presented live once again. (An earlier effort in 2019 to move four categories to commercial breaks was also scuttled after members protested.)

“We want to return to a show that has reverence for film and 95 years of the Oscars,” academy CEO Bill Kramer, who assumed the reins of the organization last year, said in a roundtable interview with reporters in August. “It’s a moment to really reflect on our membership, all craft areas, our changing industry [and] our fans. … There are ways to do that that are entertaining and authentic and that are tied to our mission to honor excellence in moviemaking. I don’t think that’s mutually exclusive.”

Film producer and former academy governor Bill Mechanic, who co-produced the Oscars in 2010, said the organization’s handling of the controversy highlighted its struggle to adapt. In 2018, Mechanic resigned from the board over his frustrations with the group’s direction.

“Everything about the academy is about not wanting to hurt anyone’s feelings, regardless of the fact that that’s what life often entails,” says Mechanic, who advocates moving certain categories, such as the short-film awards, out of the telecast and finding more ways to recognize the most broadly popular films. “The ratings will continue to dip because the audience doesn’t have a vested interest and the show isn’t shaped. … There’s nobody leading the parade. It’s the blind leading the blind.”

EVEN THIS year’s host, Jimmy Kimmel, who is emceeing the Oscars for the third time, has criticized the academy for too often favoring niche critical darlings over more mainstream fare. On his late-night show earlier this year, Kimmel cracked that this year’s best picture field includes “six movies that no one has seen — including a movie called ‘Triangle of Sadness’, which I always thought was a slice of Papa John’s pizza.”

Some academy members share Kimmel’s sentiment. “I think we need to redefine what quality means,” says one member, who like some others interviewed requested anonymity in order to speak candidly about a sensitive subject. “A lot of times ‘quality’ means a certain kind of movie. It’s a movie that walks like a duck and talks like a duck — even if it’s a turkey. We have an idea of ‘This is who the academy is.’ Hopefully that will change with an evolving membership.”

Other academy members point to the show’s antiquated format, which seems increasingly out of step with the sensibility of younger viewers, who seem largely uninterested in awards shows.

“The younger generation likes to participate or be entertained,” says one longtime academy member. “To sit and watch rich and mostly white people get awards is not their thing. What is their thing is TikTok. Make the show like a series of funny, entertaining, quick-paced and high-energy TikTok videos. Why are they reluctant to embrace a new format?”

Critics within and outside the academy also point to the show’s frequent emphasis on questions of identity and other thorny political issues as a turnoff for a large swath of the viewing public.

“The Oscars have felt tonally very serious and at times self-righteous for the last several years, and they need to get back to throwing an actual party,” says an academy member. “A celebration of your favorite movies of the year should be fun — that should be the North Star. Somehow in an effort to make the Oscars important, they’re rendering themselves meaningless.”

Though they’re keeping many of their plans under wraps, this year’s Oscar producers promise that the telecast will deliver plenty of entertainment value, including a musical performance by Rihanna, hot off her Super Bowl halftime show, of her original song nominee “Lift Me Up” from “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.”

“If you watch the show, I think you’re going to see something at the very top that is so exciting and has never been seen before on the Oscars — if that’s not a tease, I don’t know what is,” says Weiss, who co-produced the 2019 telecast and will direct the show for the eighth consecutive year.

“We’re not trying to reinvent the format wheel here,” Weiss continues. “What we’re trying to do is to celebrate something that everybody can relate to. We’re telling a story about storytellers, and I think the way we’re telling it is adapting and changing with the times. … At the end of the day, our metric [for success] is that we’ve tuned out all the noise that’s out there and put on a good show. If you’re having a good time and immersed in the show, that’s the win.”

YOUR OSCAR VIEWING PARTY MENU

JUSTIN CHANG
FILM CRITIC

ARE YOU STUMPED for ideas about what to serve at your Oscar party? Not sure whether to go with simple hors d'oeuvres or something more elaborate, like Everything Everywhere All at Brunch? Let our annual Academy Awards menu be your guide. One thing's for sure: This is no time to All Diet on the Western Front.

STARTERS

All the Beauty and the Blood Sausage
All That Brie
Empanada of Light
Marcel the Shell With Udon
Michelle Will Yams
Stephanie Hsu Pastry
Tuna Tár Tár

SALAD BAR

Avatar: The Way of Watercress
Glass Onion: Endives Out Mystery
Guillermo del Toro's Radicchio
Jamie Leek Curtis
The Kale
Mrs. Harris Goes to Carrots

ENTRÉES

Andrea Rice Burrito
Angel Hair Bassett
Argentuna, 1985
The Banh Mi of Inisherin
The Bratman
Breaded Gleeson
Chicken Condon Bleu
Cod Field
Edward Burger
Hong Chowder
Kazuo Ishi-gyros
Living and Onions
Pastrami Ruben Östlund
Puss in Boots: The Last Fish
Ramen Talking
Steak Diane Warren
Steven Spielburger
Tri-Tip of Sadness

SIDE DISHES

Black Pancit: Wakanda Forever
Colin Farro
Daal Mescal
Darius Congee
Potatoes O'Brian Tyree Henry
Top Bun: Maverick
Turning Bread (With Austin Butter)

BEVERAGES

All the Fruit Tea and the Bloodshed
The Banshees of Inisherry
Boba-lon
Brendan Teaser
(Jack) Daniels
Judd Kirsch
Martini McDonagh
My Beer of Dicks
Paul Mezcal

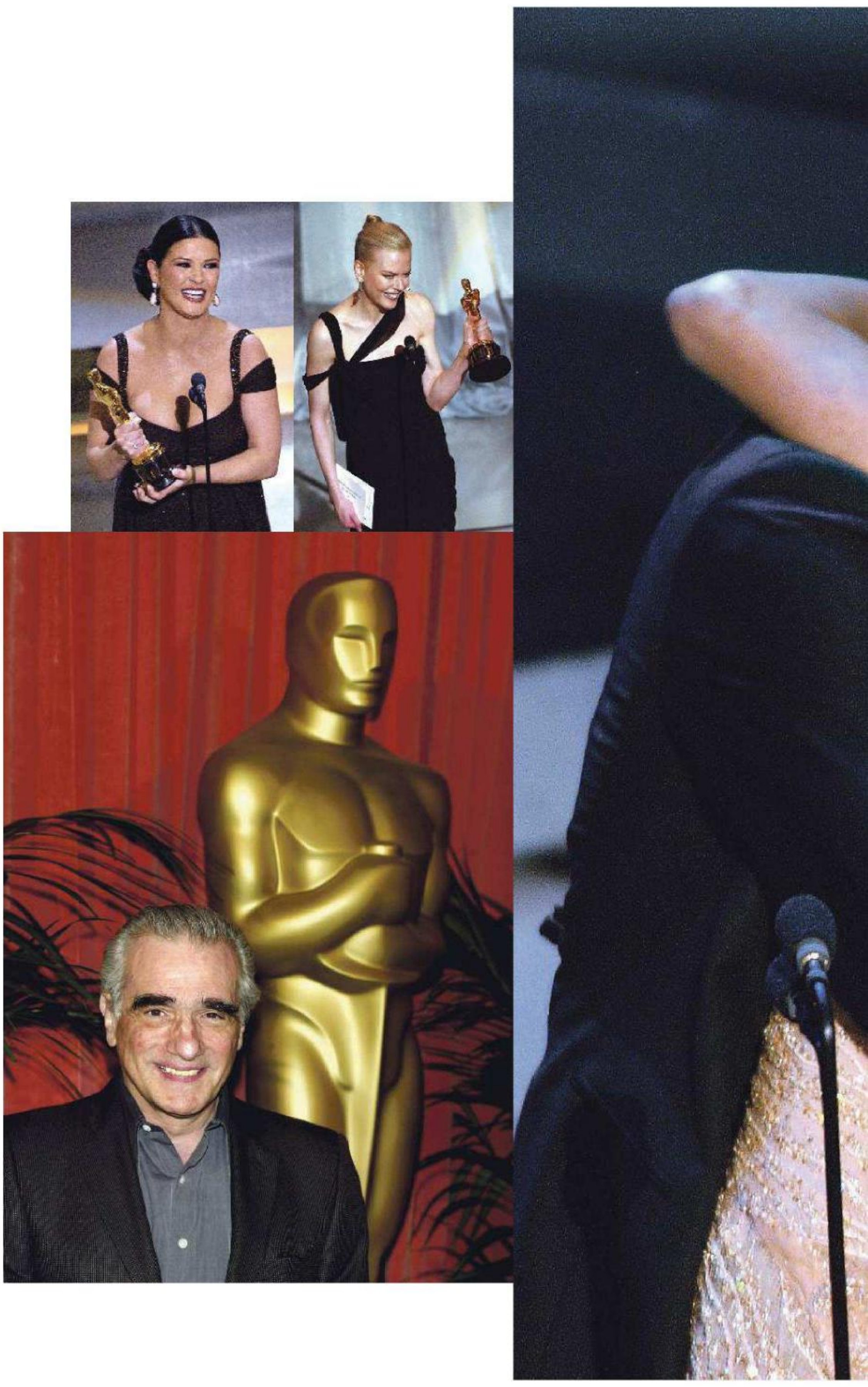
HERBS AND SPICES

Dill Nighy
Fire of Clove
Za'atár

DESSERTS

All Quiet on the Western Bundt
Apple Tart: The Way of Water
Banana de Armas
Berry Keoghan
Cake Blanchett
The Fabelmints
Kiwi Quan
Martin McDoughnuts
Michelle Yeohgurt
Táramisu

(Sincere thanks to my friend Charlie for "The Banh Mi of Inisherin," and to my wife for her Fraser-sharp punning and editing skills.)



A LOOK BACK ON THE MOST CRINGEWORTHY CEREMONY OF ALL

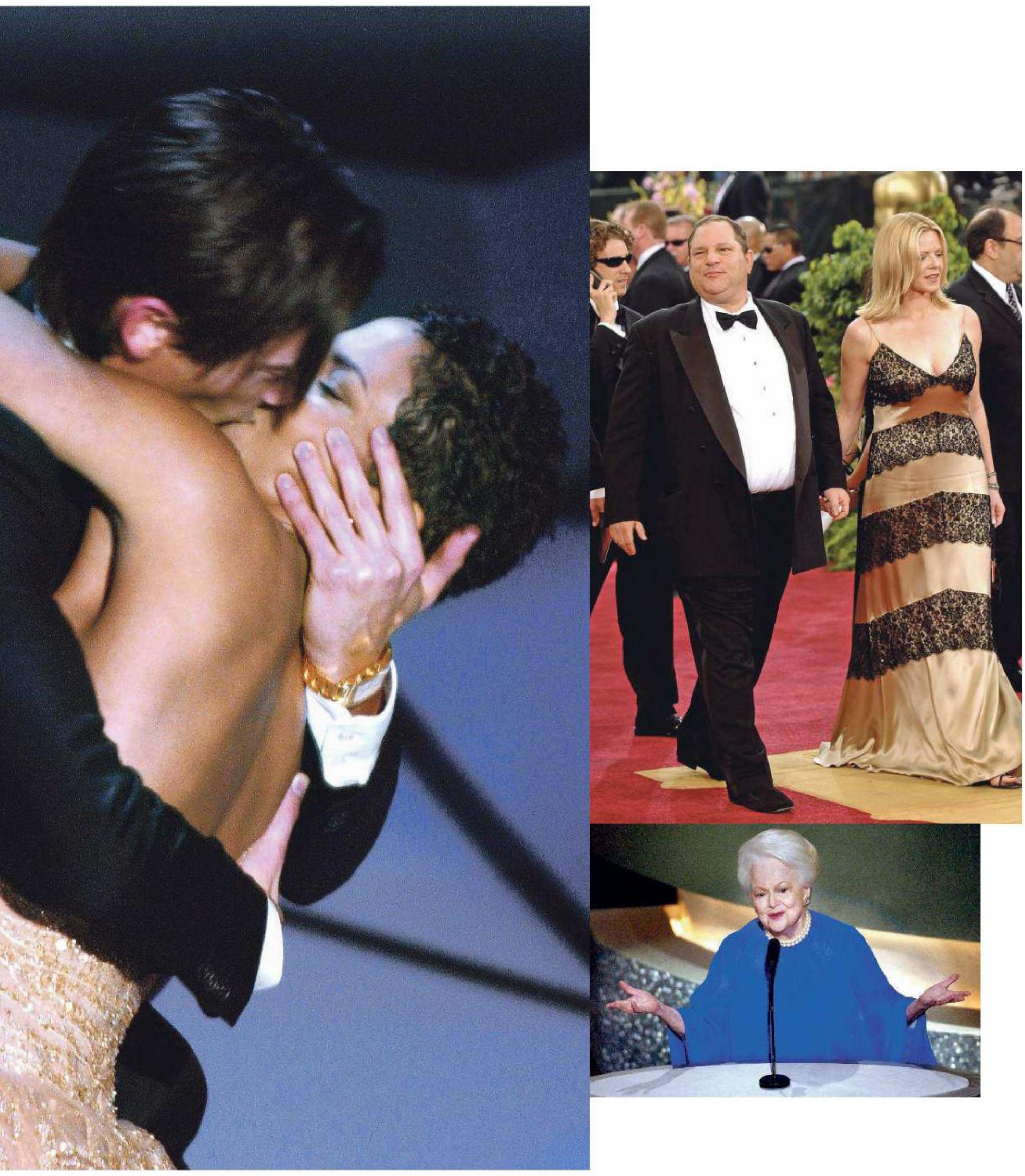
TWENTY YEARS LATER, IT'S CLEAR THAT THE 2003 AWARDS PORTENDED THE HOLLYWOOD RECKONING TO COME

BY JUSTIN CHANG AND GLENN WHIPP

TWENTY YEARS AGO, Rob Marshall's "Chicago" won six Academy Awards, including best picture, beating out Martin Scorsese's "Gangs of New York," Stephen Daldry's "The Hours," Peter Jackson's "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" and Roman Polanski's "The Pianist." The triumph of "Chicago" — one of several contenders backed by Harvey Weinstein, then at the peak of his power — had been widely expected; so were the wins for lead actress Nicole Kidman ("The Hours"), supporting actor Chris Cooper ("Adaptation") and supporting actress Catherine Zeta-Jones ("Chicago"). ¶ Less expected: a startling late surge for "The Pianist," which scored upset victories for lead actor Adrien Brody and director Polanski, whose 1977 rape scandal had resurfaced in awards-season headlines. Elsewhere, Hayao Miyazaki's "Spirited Away" was named best animated feature, Caroline Link's "Nowhere in Africa" won foreign-language film and — in one of the evening's most explosive acceptance speeches — Michael Moore took the stage to receive his documentary feature Oscar for "Bowling for Columbine." ¶ Times film critic Justin Chang and columnist Glenn Whipp sat down to discuss one of the most cringeworthy Oscars ever and what it portended for the movie industry more than a decade before #MeToo.

JUSTIN CHANG: Not to start off on a completely repugnant note, Glenn, but the Oscarcast of March 23, 2003, is forever cemented in my brain as "the Harvey Weinstein Oscars." That might seem an odd thing to say, since it was hardly the first or last time that Weinstein dominated the Academy Awards race — a race whose over-spending, opponent-smearing, for-your-consideration-or-else modern template he more or less invented. He'd already enjoyed big awards hauls with "The English Patient" (1996) and "Shakespeare in Love" (1998), and he would enjoy them again with "The King's Speech" (2010) and "The Artist" (2011). But never again would a single awards season feel quite so overstacked with his movies, or — in retrospect — so queasily emblematic of his chokehold on the industry that he bullied, manipulated and abused for decades.

Three of the five best picture nominees — "Chicago," "Gangs of New York" and "The Hours" — were released by the Disney-owned, Weinstein-run Miramax Films. Of those three, "Chicago" was the dominant favorite all season long. No one was remotely surprised when Rob Marshall's flashily entertaining Broadway-to-Hollywood adaptation won six Oscars, includ-



Photographs by Kevork Djansezian and Kim D. Johnson Associated Press; Kevin Winter Getty Images

WINNER for supporting actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, top left; lead actress Nicole Kidman; Adrien Brody kisses Halle Berry; Harvey Weinstein with then-wife, Eve Chilton Weinstein; Olivia de Havilland introduces the reunion segment; Martin Scorsese.

Another shot at the real winners

BY GLENN WHIPP AND JUSTIN CHANG

THERE'S A CASE to be made that Oscars should be awarded not a few months but a few years after the movies are released. Maybe even 20 years, so as to weed out the overpraised clunkers, elevate the overlooked gems and ensure that the winners truly stand the test of time. With that in mind, on the 20th anniversary of the 2003 Oscars, Times columnist Glenn Whipp and film critic Justin Chang looked back at the top eight categories and had a spirited discussion of what should have won — and what should have been nominated.

BEST PICTURE

"Chicago" (winner)
"Gangs of New York"
"The Hours"
"The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers"
"The Pianist"

CHANG: Given its three shocking wins for adapted screenplay, lead actor and director, it seems safe to say

[See **Ballot,** E6]

ing best picture and supporting actress for Catherine Zeta-Jones, so riveting as the murderous chorine Velma Kelly. At the same time, Miramax's dominance clearly backfired in some respects, suggesting that not even as savvy an awards campaigner as Weinstein could juggle so many favorites. How do you convince voters that "Chicago" is the year's best movie but also persuade them to cast their director votes for Scorsese — who, at that point, had famously never won a directing Oscar — for the wildly polarizing "Gangs of New York"?

You can't, and he couldn't. Once it became clear that this was not going to be Scorsese's year, nearly everyone assumed the beneficiary would be Marshall, especially after he won the Directors Guild of America's top prize in early March. But the academy went its own way: In one of the most remarkable single-film upsets in recent Oscar history, Roman Polanski's "The Pianist" won three Oscars no one was expecting it to win: adapted screenplay for Ronald Harwood, lead actor for Adrien Brody and directing for Polanski himself. That last award was presented by Harrison Ford, who smiled a little smile when he read the name of the filmmaker who'd directed him in "Frantic" (1988). (He certainly looked happier than he did the last time he'd dropped an Oscar-night bombshell, presenting best picture to "Shakespeare in Love.")

Polanski wasn't in attendance, of course, having been a fugitive from American justice since 1978, when he pleaded guilty to having unlawful sex with a 13-year-old girl. Those headlines resurfaced often during that whole awful awards season, and quite a few people, including Polanski himself, decried what they perceived as a Weinstein-backed smear campaign. I suspect Polanski won partly due to a collective backlash against that campaign, and also because of deep admiration for his career in general — like Scorsese, he'd never won an Oscar — and for "The Pianist" in particular. Twenty years later, all this seems both insignificant and momentous: Weinstein is in prison for rape and, having just been given an extra 16 years on top of his existing 23-year sentence, will likely, hopefully die there. His public downfall spurred the rise of the #MeToo movement, and in the wake of that movement, Polanski, still a fugitive, was stripped of his academy membership — though not of his Oscar.

GLENN WHIPP: When we looked back at the 2002 Oscars, Justin, I labeled that campaign season "the absolute worst" and wrote that its "vicious backbiting has not been equaled." This year, we have the sequel, a sadder and even more sordid season dominated by Weinstein's obsession with getting Scorsese an Oscar and the ultimate victory for Polanski, a man who, according to that 13-year girl's testimony, drugged and raped her. He then fled the country, fearful that he'd have to serve additional time beyond the 42 days he had already spent in jail.

The ovation Polanski received that night remains Exhibit A for haters who view Hollywood as a place where morals go to die. It's a bit more complicated. For one thing, not everyone stood — or even applauded. From the moment "The Pianist" won the Palme d'Or at Cannes, I spoke with plenty of academy members who loathed the idea of rewarding Polanski. The notion that this stance originated as a smear campaign and not a simple declaration of principle is understandable. Weinstein was involved, after all. But it's also deeply cynical and doesn't recognize the range of opinions people held.

There were also many who, quite simply, didn't know (or bother to learn) the facts of the case, and believed, as Weinstein wrote in the Independent, that "whatever you think about the so-called crime, Polanski has served his time." And, with "The Pianist," Polanski had just made this shocking, authoritative movie about a Polish Jew surviving the Warsaw Ghetto, guided by his own unflinching memories of enduring the Krakow Ghetto as a child. Should you separate the artist from the art? Some Oscar voters, enough Oscar voters, believed that you should. But that opinion was far from universal.

The impulse to give Scorsese the Oscar he should have won for "Raging Bull" and "Goodfellas" wasn't unanimous either. It's the exception rather than the rule when people win an Oscar for their best work, unless you think "Scent of a Woman" is peak Pacino. You'd be hard-pressed to find anyone who counts "Gangs of New York" as their favorite Scorsese movie, though I'll admit to loving its brawls, its spectacle and Daniel Day-Lewis' fuming brilliance. I could — and did — get behind the idea that it was Scorsese's time. Looking back, I feel like I became too deeply invested in the "Marty's due" narrative.

But then, Scorsese did too, turning up at countless events concocted by Weinstein and his campaigners to put him in front of voters. I caught up with Scorsese for a long interview about a month before the Oscars. He sounded tired and ready for the whole thing to be over. After voting began, he endured one last ignominy when it was revealed that a testimonial — one that Miramax was touting in campaign ads for "Gangs" — had been written by an in-house publicist and not legendary director Robert Wise. Academy President Frank Pierson noted that many members asked for their ballots to be returned so they could strike Scorsese's name.

The ballots weren't returned. It didn't matter. Scorsese would have to wait another four years to win that Oscar for the twisty crime drama "The Departed," a sensational movie that, unlike "Gangs," would make most fans' lists of Top 10 Scorsese movies. But just barely.

CHANG: Whichever film(s) you think Scorsese deserved to win for — and I'll pause to register my displeasure that he wasn't even nominated for "Taxi Driver" — it's hard not to feel a certain satisfaction that he won it for a movie that Weinstein *didn't* back.

You're right to note, Glenn, that Polanski's Oscar win, although widely applauded at the time, hardly amounted to unanimous industry vindication. And yet there's no denying the heightened #MeToo-era outcry over Polanski's crimes, especially since several other women have come forward alleging that Polanski sexually assaulted them, in most cases when they were minors. Attitudes have shifted in the U.S., where Polanski was expelled from the academy, and in France, where protests erupted after he won the best director César for his 2019 movie, "An Officer and a Spy." And this isn't going away: It's likely to haunt the reception for Polanski's new movie, "The Palace," which might play a major European festival this year, even if it seems unlikely ever to be shown in the U.S.

Separate the art from the artist? We're not going to settle that debate here, Glenn, but I will note that to try and separate the two would deny the haunting power of "The Pianist" itself. This could be Polanski's most personal film, a stealth cine-memoir in which his Holocaust survival story merges with that of his real-life subject, the Polish classical pianist Wladyslaw Szpilman. You can't separate Polanski from it, any more than you could disentangle "The Pianist," with its galvanizing portrait of German-occupied Poland, from the early Iraq war headlines that were emerging as that year's Oscars got underway.

Adrien Brody referenced this in his lead actor speech, noting that the film had brought him new awareness of "the sadness and dehumanization of people at times of war" and calling "for a peaceful and swift resolution." (Brody's acceptance remains memorable for many reasons, including that infamous kiss he forced on presenter Halle Berry — a moment that drew a lot of cheers and laughs but, to continue with the theme, plays a lot cringier today.) And of course, who could forget the most overtly political moment of the night, when Michael Moore — winner of the documentary feature Oscar for his gun-control polemic, "Bowling for Columbine" — dragged his fellow nominees with him up to the stage and denounced George W. Bush as "a fictitious president" who had led the U.S. into war for "fictitious reasons." Moore's speech drew some applause, but mostly a lot of boos, bemused expressions and crossed arms. Unlike some other things from Oscar night 2003, it's aged pretty well!

WHIPP: I don't know if I'd go *that* far, Justin, though I am down with much of what he bellowed from the stage. But then, perhaps I haven't aged all that well myself. Because as I totter into antiquity, to borrow the words of Peter O'Toole, winner of an honorary Oscar that year, I find I've come to cherish the parts of the ceremony that are now distinctly out of fashion. Like ... O'Toole accepting an Oscar from Meryl Streep and eloquently expressing his gratitude, even though he had initially asked the academy to hold off on the honor because he was "still in the game and might win the lovely bugger outright."

The honorary Oscars have been moved off the telecast, relegated to a separate ceremony, the Governors Awards, a lovely event that celebrates film history, often including the work of artists not widely known to the general public but supremely vital to cinema. (This year's mix of honorees was sublime: Michael J. Fox, Martinique-born filmmaker Euzhan Palcy, Australian director Peter Weir and songwriter Diane Warren.) It isn't televised, which means it isn't rushed. But that also means that it really isn't seen, which is a shame because these honorary awards are both a benediction and an introduction. When the academy celebrated Alec Guinness in 1979, it revealed the career of an actor I only knew as Obi-Wan Kenobi. As a young movie fan, I dove in.

So it should come as no surprise that my favorite part of the 2003 ceremony came with the 12-minute Oscar reunion, introduced by Olivia de Havilland, that featured 59 Academy Award acting winners seated in four rows on stage. Their names were read alphabetically, starting with Dame Julie Andrews, and each one smiled or waved or blushed or did all of the above — and it was absolutely amazing. Nicolas Cage and then Michael Caine. Luise Rainer, 93, followed by Julia Roberts. Streisand! Streep! Watching it now, I want to cue up "Celluloid Heroes." It's a pageant of "people who worked and suffered and struggled for fame ... some who succeeded and some who suffered in vain."

How did we go from that to a hashtag-driven Twitter poll for a "fan favorite award" and pre-taped Oscar wins? The new academy leadership knows it needs to do better. Justin, let's check in 20 years from now and see if it did.

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"TALK TO HER" stars Geraldine Chaplin, top left, Leonor Watling; Adrien Brody in "The Pianist"; and Catherine Zeta-Jones in "Chicago."

[**Ballot,** from E5]

that **"The Pianist"** came much closer to unseating the heavily favored "Chicago" for best picture than anyone expected. And it absolutely should have — it was the best of the five nominees, with "The Two Towers" running a close second — though I might have felt differently had either Todd Haynes' magnificent melodrama **"Far From Heaven"** or Hayao Miyazaki's anime masterpiece **"Spirited Away"** been in the running.

WHIPP: Pedro Almodóvar earned nominations for writing and directing **"Talk to Her,"** a fearless and funny film about love and loneliness and need. It might be the best movie Almodóvar has made (don't make me choose), which means it was most certainly the best movie of this particular year. A close second: Alfonso Cuarón's summer road movie **"Y Tu Mamá También,"** a profane and emotionally charged portrait of adolescence, masculinity and a hidden Mexico. Of the nominees, I agree: **"The Pianist"** holds up the best.

DIRECTING

Pedro Almodóvar, "Talk to Her"
Stephen Daldry, "The Hours"
Rob Marshall, "Chicago"
Roman Polanski, "The Pianist" (winner)
Martin Scorsese, "Gangs of New York"

WHIPP: I've already made my case for **Almodóvar**. How has he never won for directing? (It's a rhetorical question. It's the Oscars.) Here's another stunner: **Haynes** has never been nominated as a director. With its immaculate Technicolor-era Douglas Sirk trappings that serve the story and comment on the era *and* pay tribute to those great '50s Hollywood melodramas, "Far From Heaven" is a divine directorial achievement.

CHANG: Almodóvar may have been the race's token international nominee, but his exquisitely crafted "Talk to Her" ensured he was also the worthiest of the lot. I'm right there with you on the ridiculously never-nominated Haynes, Glenn, and I'll just add that he should have been joined in the directing category by **Spike Lee** ("25th Hour"), who, also ridiculously, had never yet been nominated for directing. What an oversight: His drama of post-9/11 New York remains one of the most politically urgent and emotionally wrenching films of his career.

LEAD ACTRESS

Salma Hayek, "Frida"
Nicole Kidman, "The Hours" (winner)
Diane Lane, "Unfaithful"
Julianne Moore, "Far From Heaven"
Renée Zellweger, "Chicago"

CHANG: Lane and Moore, this category's MVPs, both played married women in the grip of forbidden desires. The raw immediacy of Lane's performance is hard to pass over, but if I give **Moore** a slight edge, it's because she conveys similar longing in such an achingly constrained, immaculately stylized Sirkian register. (Don't worry: In this fantasy timeline, Kidman still wins her Oscar two years later for "Birth.") But speaking of forbidden desires: Academy voters deserved razor blades under their fingernails for not nominating **Isabelle Huppert**'s terrifying all-timer of a turn in "The Piano Teacher."

WHIPP: I have to sit this one out, as **Kidman** has become a dear friend over the years. Forty-eight hours after winning the Oscar, she was back on set, struggling with a difficult scene in "Birth," a spellbinding thriller that has become something of a secret handshake for her most devoted fans. I'm not at all surprised, Justin, that you're a member of the club.

LEAD ACTOR

Adrien Brody, "The Pianist" (winner)
Nicolas Cage, "Adaptation"
Michael Caine, "The Quiet American"
Daniel Day-Lewis, "Gangs of New York"
Jack Nicholson, "About Schmidt"

WHIPP: Day-Lewis has already won three Oscars, so giving him a fourth for his ferocious knife-wielding sociopath in "Gangs" might be a bit much. (Might.) And he's my second choice anyway, following **Cage's** genius twin turn as self-loathing screenwriter "Charlie Kaufman" and his easygoing, boneheaded brother, Donald, who, of course, finds the success in Hollywood that eludes Charlie. Cage won an Oscar in 1996 for "Leaving Las Vegas," so perhaps voters thought it was too soon to give him another. I can think of no other rational reason explaining why he didn't win.

CHANG: Talk about a Cage match! He was brilliant, but so was **Brody**, who can keep this win for his physically grueling yet powerfully subdued transformation in "The Pianist" — a rare and laudable instance of the academy honoring an entirely interior performance. Not so interior, but no less deserving, was **Adam Sandler** for being such a thrillingly volatile romantic lead in Paul Thomas Anderson's "Punch-Drunk Love" — arguably the Sandman's first great performance, but certainly not his last.

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Kathy Bates, "About Schmidt"
Queen Latifah, "Chicago"
Julianne Moore, "The Hours"
Meryl Streep, "Adaptation"
Catherine Zeta-Jones, "Chicago" (winner)

WHIPP: Streep has already won three Oscars, so giving her a fourth ... wait ... I'm repeating myself. But, wow, her openhearted, comic and altogether human portrayal of author Susan Orlean is right there with her career-best work. On the whole, I wouldn't tinker with this perfectly fine list, and as **Zeta-Jones** powered the best picture winner, I can't begrudge her the win.

CHANG: I pretty much agree with you, Glenn (hey, it happens). **Streep** gave one of her most inspired performances ever in "Adaptation" — a reminder that, for all her much-vaunted skills as a dramatic actor, she may be an even better comedian. Even so, who would want to rip away Zeta-Jones' ferociously deserved win (and risk getting murdered, "Cell Block Tango"-style)? My only objection to this category is that it didn't include **Patricia Clarkson**'s stiletto-sharp turn as Julianne Moore's treacherous best friend in "Far From Heaven" — a wickedly funny, emotionally bruising performance that does the great Agnes Moorehead proud.

SUPPORTING ACTOR

Chris Cooper, "Adaptation" (winner)
Ed Harris, "The Hours"
Paul Newman, "Road to Perdition"
John C. Reilly, "Chicago"
Christopher Walken, "Catch Me If You Can"

CHANG: I'm going to continue my "Far From Heaven" standom, Glenn, and say that **Dennis Quaid** not getting nominated for his anguished, soul-lacerating performance as a 1950s closeted gay family man was this season's most outrageous Oscar oversight. In his inexplicable absence, this race easily comes down to the two Chrises, and while I was as delighted as everyone else to see Cooper prevail, I'd have cast my ballot for **Walken**, the most moving element of "Catch Me If You Can" by far.

WHIPP: Spike Lee's "25th Hour" earned decent reviews at its time of release, but its standing has increased tenfold over the last two decades. An urgent meditation on crime and punishment in New York (and perhaps the best film ever made about 9/11), it features a dream ensemble including Edward Norton in the lead role and **Philip Seymour Hoffman**, **Barry Pepper**, Rosario Dawson, Anna Paquin and Brian Cox. Pepper and Hoffman could have easily been nominated here, with Hoffman getting bonus points for the number of different ways he screams "shut up!" at Adam Sandler in "Punch-Drunk Love." As for who should have prevailed ... weirdo-mode **Cooper,** of course! I'm not going to take away the one Oscar this movie won.

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

Todd Haynes, "Far From Heaven"
Jay Cocks, Steven Zaillian and Kenneth Lonergan, "Gangs of New York"
Nia Vardalos, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"
Pedro Almodóvar, "Talk to Her" (winner)
Carlos Cuarón and Alfonso Cuarón, "Y Tu Mamá También"

CHANG: This was the rare year in which a non-English-language film won this prize — a milestone that would remain even if I reassigned this award to **the Cuaróns** for their joyous erotic comedy **"Y Tu Mamá También."** But why stop there? One of 2002's best-written movies was **"Late Marriage,"** a scalding piece of work from Israeli writer-director **Dover Kosashvili**; submitted but not nominated for the foreign-language film Oscar, it more than merited consideration here as well.

WHIPP: So if Almodóvar wins for director, can I gift this Oscar to **Haynes** so he can have one too? I'd love to make room for **"Frailty,"** a psychological horror film written by **Brent Hanley** and directed by Bill Paxton, who also stars as the loving father who enlists his two young sons to help him follow God's orders and murder the victims he brings home. It's chilling and nervy in its examination of religious fanaticism — and also the only feature screenplay Hanley ever had produced.

ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

Peter Hedges, Chris Weitz and Paul Weitz, "About a Boy"
Charlie Kaufman, "Adaptation"
Bill Condon, "Chicago"
David Hare, "The Hours"
Ronald Harwood, "The Pianist" (winner)

WHIPP: Boy, I'm going dark in these writing categories ... but David Cronenberg's **"Spider"** ranks as one of the more underappreciated movies of this great filmmaker's career. **Patrick McGrath** adapted his own novel, bringing an acute and sensitive understanding of trauma to this story of a mentally ill man (a superb Ralph Fiennes) leaving a mental institution after 20 years of confinement. I'd have given the Oscar to **"Adaptation,"** of course, though I do take heart that Kaufman won two years later for co-writing the even-better "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

CHANG: I remember rooting for "About a Boy" at the time, but 20 years later, it feels wrong that a movie actually called **"Adaptation"** — even one less ingenious than Charlie Kaufman's meta-comic tour de force — failed to win the adapted screenplay prize. As far as what else should've been nominated: Since you've already spoken up for Cronenberg's eminently worthy "Spider," Glenn, I'll bang the drum once more for **"25th Hour,"** superbly adapted by **David Benioff** from his own 2001 novel. It was Benioff's first feature script — he would write several more, including "Troy" and "The Kite Runner," before going on to create a little show called "Game of Thrones" — and it remains, dare I say, his best.

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EO 1:40 7:30
SHORT FILM PROGRAM *THE RECALL* NR 1:00 PM

MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica
THE QUIET GIRL PG-13 1:10 4:20 7:10
2023 OSCAR NOMINATED SHORT FILMS - ANIMATION 1:30 7:30
2023 OSCAR NOMINATED SHORT FILMS - LIVE-ACTION 1:00 7:00
CLOSE PG-13 1:20 7:10
WOMEN TALKING PG-13 4:10 PM
LIVING PG-13 1:30 7:20
THE WHALE R 1:00 7:00
AFTERSUN R 4:30 PM
TO LESLIE R 4:00 PM
TRIANGLE OF SADNESS R 3:45 PM
TÁR R 4:00 PM

TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
UNICORN WARS 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35
CREED III PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00
THE QUIET GIRL PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:20
2023 OSCAR NOMINATED SHORT FILMS - ANIMATION 1:20 7:10
2023 OSCAR NOMINATED SHORT FILMS - LIVE-ACTION 1:10 7:00
CLOSE PG-13 4:20 PM
LIVING PG-13 4:10 PM

NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
65 PG-13 12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40
CHAMPIONS PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00
SCREAM VI R 1:10 4:10 7:10
CREED III PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:10
OPERATION FORTUNE: RUSE DE GUERRE R 1:20 4:20 7:20
COCAINE BEAR R 1:30 4:30 7:30
ANT-MAN AND THE WASP: QUANTUMANIA PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00

GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
PUNCH 4:20 PM
THERAPY DOGS 1:30 7:10
CREED III PG-13 1:10 4:10 7:20
THE QUIET GIRL PG-13 1:20 4:40 7:30
2023 OSCAR NOMINATED SHORT FILMS - DOCUMENTARY 1:00 6:40
RETURN TO SEOUL R *SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH;* 1:00 7:00
LIVING PG-13 4:30 PM
THE LAKE 4:00 PM

NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
65 PG-13 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:40
CHAMPIONS PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:10
THE MAGIC FLUTE 1:10 7:10
SCREAM VI R 1:00 4:00 7:00
CREED III PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:20
OPERATION FORTUNE: RUSE DE GUERRE R 1:20 4:10 7:00
COCAINE BEAR R 1:30 4:30 7:30
THE RITUAL KILLER 4:30 PM

CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
65 PG-13 12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40
THE MAGIC FLUTE 4:00 PM
SCREAM VI R 1:10 4:10 7:10
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RUNNING THE SHOW

ALL FOR LOVE

SERA GAMBLE ANALYZES THE 'YOU' ANTIHERO WHO SERIALLY KILLS ROMANCE

BY YVONNE VILLARREAL

SERA GAMBLE understands your Joe Goldberg conundrum. As the hopeless romantic and serial killer at the center of Netflix's popular series "You," Joe, played by Penn Badgley, is a thorny protagonist: You love him! You're weirded out by him! He's toxic! Wait, you're rooting for him to change? ¶ "It feels like that in the [writers'] room, too," says Gamble, showrunner of the psychological thriller. "On any given morning, someone will be like, 'We need to shove *him* off a building instead of some innocent victim this time.' And then somebody else would be like, 'Oh, I feel like he's been really sweet to [love interest] Kate [Charlotte Ritchie] this season.' " ¶ Joe has been wrestling with himself too. ¶ After escaping death at the hands of his equally murderous wife, Love Quinn (Victoria Pedretti), Joe headed overseas. Season 4 — in two installments, with Part 1 released last month — started off as a whodunit satirizing the British class system, with Joe posing as Jonathan Moore, an American literature professor in London drawn into the mystery of the Eat-the-Rich Killer.

(Warning: The following contains spoilers from "You" Season 4, Part 2.)

As we learn in Part 2, now streaming, all is not as it appears: Joe himself, in the midst of a psychological break, is the culprit, and has his former obsession Marienne (Tati Gabrielle), thought safe from harm in Paris, locked in a glass cage.

Joe's unraveling felt inevitable, Gamble says. "It's wearing on him.

"Writers in the room all day, every day, talking about Joe — they have some pretty harsh judgments of him. And regularly, they're like, 'When are we going to punish this guy?' Penn too. Penn is like: 'How self-aware can you make him?' "

After going virtual during the critical stages of the pandemic, the writers room returned to working in person this season. "It was really hard to break most of a season on Zoom," Gamble says. "You're efficient because you have to be because the fatigue is quicker. But there really is so much about the chemistry of people in a room."

She also acknowledges, with a tone of relief, that the pandemic forced her to change her relationship to work. After getting her professional start on ABC's short-lived procedural "Eyes" in 2005, she joined the team at the CW's "Supernatural," leaving after its seventh season in 2012. In 2015, she created and executive produced SyFy's "The Magicians," which was canceled after five seasons, and in 2018 she developed "You," based on Caroline Kepnes' novels, with Greg Berlanti. She's also currently an executive producer on Apple TV+'s "Physical," starring Rose Byrne.

"I have worked pretty much nonstop for my adult life," she says. "But the pandemic stepped up the level of working all the time with no breaks. The last couple of years has been a period of real introspection for me about how to just live my life in a more sustainable way and have a relationship to my work that is a little bit gentler and that can last for a really long time."

In a recent video call from her home in Los Angeles, Gamble talked about the season's shocking twists and accommodating Badgley's request for fewer sex scenes. The following conversation has been condensed and edited for clarity.

'WE'RE GONNA GO FOR IT'

As Joe adjusts to his new life in London, there's one person in his posh new circle of friends that he's drawn to: Rhys Montrose (Ed Speleers). Rhys rose to prominence by writing a memoir about his troubled upbringing, which Joe found relatable.

In the Part 1 finale, Rhys is revealed to be the Eat-the-Rich Killer and the man who's been stalking Joe and trying to frame him for murder. Except he isn't really: He's a symptom of Joe's disassociation from reality.

We started from a place of, "What kind of man would Joe admire?" The key that unlocked the story for us was when we realized that Rhys was definitely a real person. We went back and forth as we were starting, to say, "How are we going to tell the story of the killer inside Joe has split off entirely?" We realized that we could have this be a public figure and *then* we started talking about how there are these horrible examples of people who have stalked and harmed public figures.

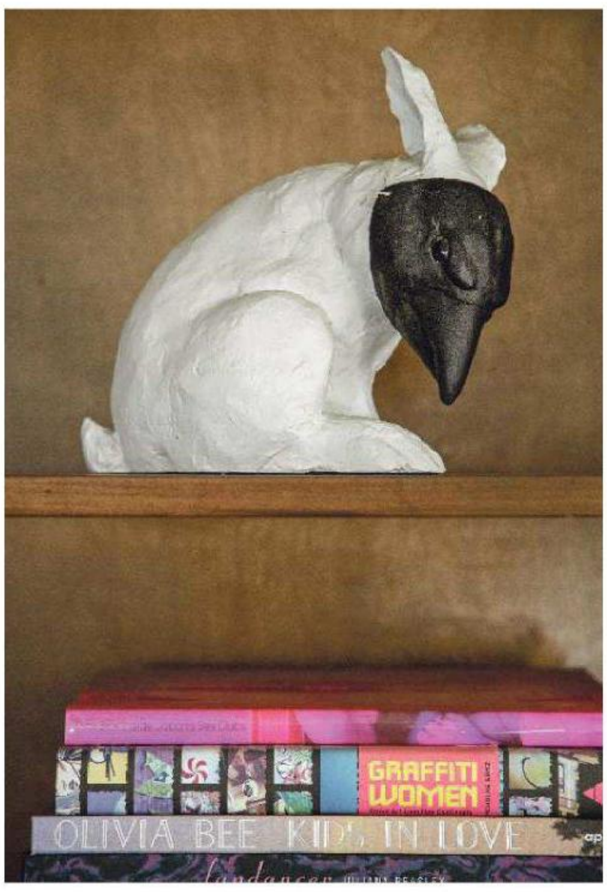
On a technical level, it was complicated. Because we're doing a whodunit, we have to track through to make sure it made sense that Rhys could have and would have done all of the things. Then we had to track through and make sure Joe could have done all those things. And then we had another pass-through to do with Rhys, of course, because Rhys and Joe are the same person. In the writers room, we regularly broke our brains because it's very easy to get overwhelmed with that many layers.

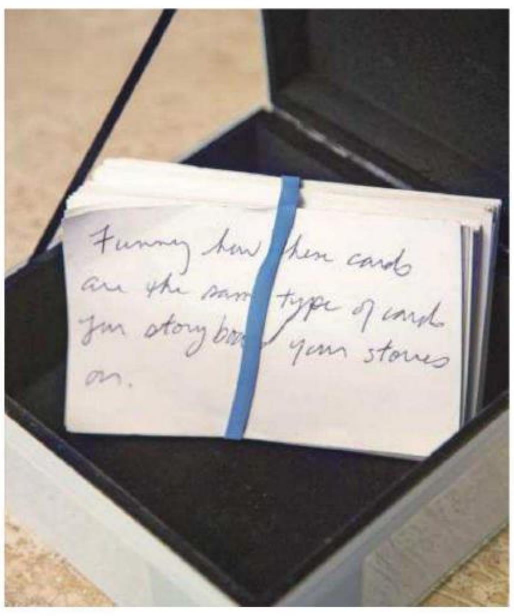
We as a room all had to hold hands and say, "OK, we're going to go for one of these story reveals that's really iconic and notoriously hard to do well, but we're gonna go for it. And we're gonna do the thing where the guy is imaginary. Because we know there's a really good reason that this is happening." What is the point of doing a fourth season of a show like "You" if you don't take a huge swing?

'WE WERE GOING TO WALK HIM ALL THE WAY UP TO SELF-AWARENESS'

In the season's final episode, Joe finds clarity about himself for the first time. Realizing he can never really be reformed if he hurts and ultimately kills the women he purports to love, Joe decides his only way out of the cycle is to kill himself. After arguing with his alter ego, he mounts a bridge and jumps.

Gamble says the writers knew early on that Joe would attempt to take his own life. But Gamble has previously stated that Joe's death is not necessarily the end game she has in mind because it'd be too easy — so, in the end, Joe survives the plunge.





SERA GAMBLE'S home office holds a sculpture by Darla Jackson, above, and her husband's marriage proposal, which he presented on a writers room staple: a stack of index cards.

The metaphor for the season that we kept coming back to was the idea of him standing on a bridge and that we were going to walk him all the way up to self-awareness, where he was for the first time. It's not about admitting that you're a murderer or a killer. It's specifically about what he has done to the women that he loves. And *that* he has never spoken to before.

As to the series' eventual ending, Gamble points to both the series' cheeky and tragic aspects as potential inspiration.

If there were elements of it that felt like a fairy-tale happy ending, it would be at least as cheeky as a lot of the other stuff we've done. His story is tragic in that there are many points along the way where, if he made another choice, he wouldn't go further down that road, which is sort of the classic structure of a tragedy. The kind of stuff that in TV, for about the last 15 or 20 years, we've been calling the single lead antihero story, where you're watching an arc of a guy who appeals to you and is understandable to you and sometimes he's quite heroic, but he also does progressively worse things. [Joe] still believes in love in this deep way, and he still wants to live in a rom-com. That's why he's still Joe, even if he isn't lying to himself about why he's showing up at somebody's house in the middle of the night. It's both his reason for being and also his Achilles' heel, that he lives for love.

'SEX ON TV SHOWS IS USUALLY NOT THAT SEXY'

Badgley recently sparked headlines and debate with comments he made on his podcast, "Podcrushed," about his aversion to filming intimate sex scenes. He revealed that he shared his feelings with Gamble ahead of the season, which prompted a reduction in the number of sex scenes.

"I asked Sera Gamble, the creator, 'Can I just do no more intimacy scenes?' Badgley said. "This is actually a decision I had made before I took the show. I don't think I had ever mentioned it publicly, but one of the main things is like, do I want to put myself back in a career path where I'm just always a romantic lead?" he said, adding: "Fidelity, in every relationship, and especially my marriage [to Domino Kirke], is important to me. And it just got to that point where I don't want to do that."

While Badgley said he understood that total elimination would be inauthentic to the show, Gamble was receptive to his request and reduced the number of intimate scenes in the season.

I think that the reaction has gone far beyond what Penn said, which is comparatively simple. Intimacy is sensitive. I appreciate it when people disclose something personal to them. His body is his body. And we don't make television shows that don't respect that. That's just not what we do.

Penn reiterated to me that he was not asking to change the content of the story. In fact, he has never demanded I change a single line of the show and he immediately acknowledged that there would be no way to write a season with nothing sexual happening to Joe. I think throwing sex scenes just to have sex in a show is kind of misguided because sex for its own sake — I mean, there is unlimited porn on the internet. And sex on TV shows is usually not that sexy. It has to be in service to the story.

As to how the request will shape future seasons, Gamble says it's an "ongoing, open conversation."

What's funny is we had to reshoot one of the sex scenes. So I called him and I said, "Great news, there's an intimacy scene that you shot for Episode 3, we have to shoot it again in a different location because we didn't really nail it the first time." We both laughed.

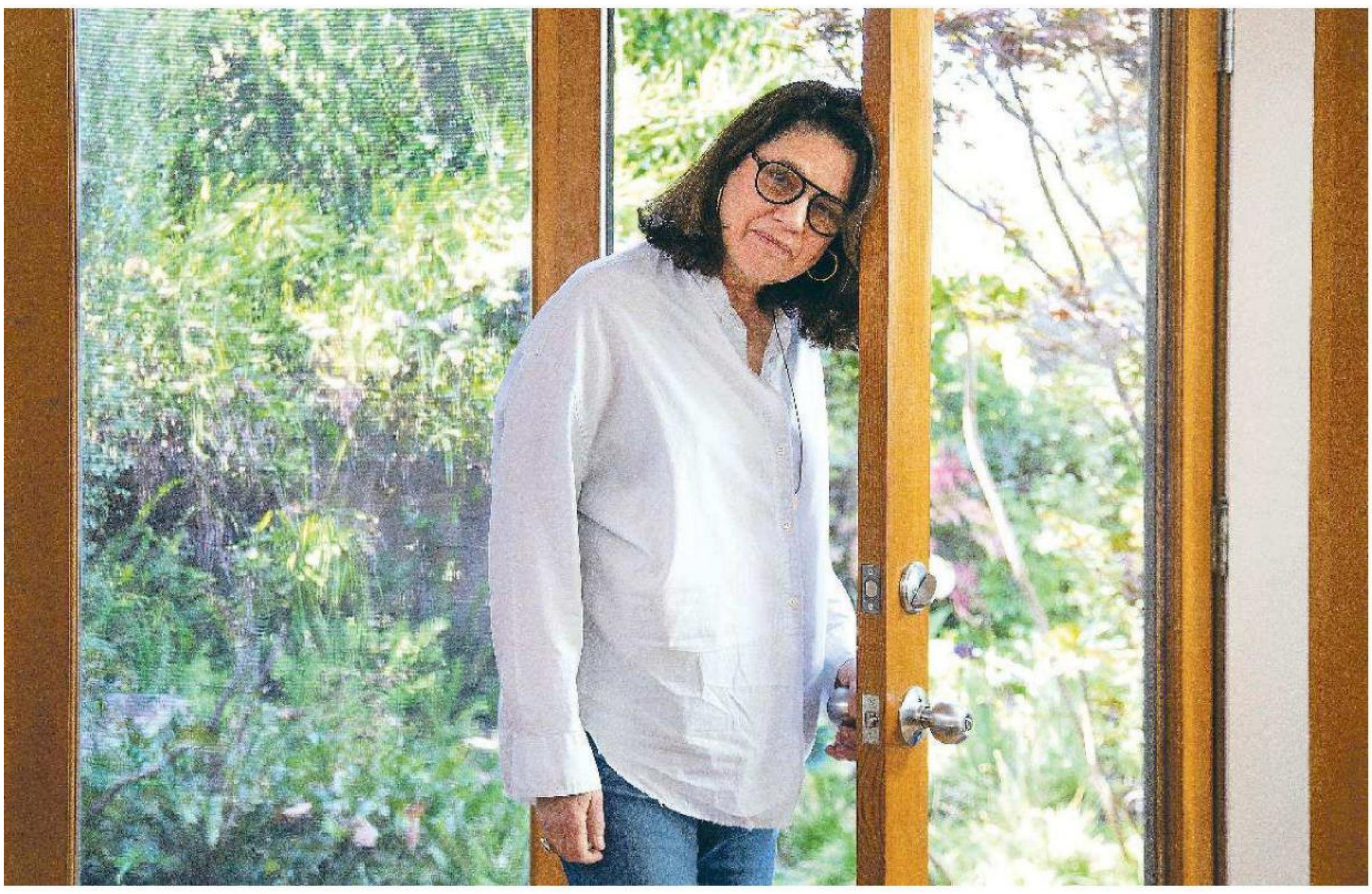
For him, it is about what actions are being asked of him and being portrayed by his body. There are many ways to get around that, although, to my recollection, that's all his performance in all of those scenes. We didn't have to [use a body double]. But it was my responsibility and my job to make sure to talk to him early. He's also a producer on the show. So it's like, "Producer to producer, here's what we're going to do. I'm going to tell you as soon as I am aware that there is a scene that may have intimacy, and the intimacy coordinator, the director, you and I are all going to look at it early. And if there is something we need to talk about, that you have any concern about, let's get to it." There's no morality panic around this with our show. Our show is still our show.

'A REAL BIG REFRESH'

As we near the 15th year anniversary of the end of the last Hollywood writers' strike, the threat of another looms. Studios and producers have been preparing for a possible strike over writers' compensation in the age of streaming, with top concerns revolving around residuals from streaming, span protection due to shortened seasons, and the rise of mini rooms. Gamble, who was a midlevel writer on "Supernatural" during the last strike, is bracing for what's ahead.

I don't presume to know the outcome of this. But I do feel that this is serious; that there are a lot of issues and that writers at every level — very new writers and very seasoned writers and creators — have felt the impact of what's been happening. I can only really speak from my position as a showrunner. What I've experienced are writers who are sometimes tied to shows that don't offer enough episodes, enough script fees or even a big enough chunk of the year for that to be their only job. And so scheduling has become a lot more complicated for them. At the same time, the general type of contract that we have is reflective of a previous era, where we were making more TV in less time. When I was on "Supernatural" it made sense that I had signed a contract that said I wouldn't go work for another show, because they would lose me, right? You only had three months off a year, and then we're making another season. Now I want writers to get another job while they have a break, I want them to be paid according to their experience. If they're producers, I want them to be paid for that.

All of this stuff just needs a real big refresh.



Gina Ferazzi Los Angeles Times

FINDING REFUGE IN L.A.

CATHLEEN SCHINE'S NEW NOVEL IS A LOVE LETTER TO THE CITY'S EMIGRÉS

BY BETHANNE PATRICK

THE NOVELIST Cathleen Schine feels comfortably ensconced in Venice, nestled in a Craftsman bungalow on a pedestrian-only street with her wife, Janet Meyer. But it took her quite a while to get settled on the West Coast. Schine was a New Yorker for decades, and though Meyer works in L.A. as a film producer, they hopscotched back and forth. The red-eye commute couldn't last forever. ¶ "I'd been sort of bicoastal for 20 years, while my kids were still in school," Schine says, speaking from her home not far from Abbot Kinney Boulevard. "At a certain point, I realized that I was no longer really excited by all the excitement of New York."

After her mother died in 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic sent everyone home, Schine began to think about a novel that would portray a different kind of New Yorker growing enchanted by the neighborhood — and not just the Venice of today but also the lower-slung version of decades past. Before long, Schine's story opened out onto an often-overlooked history: the World War II era when refugee artists including Thomas Mann and Arnold Schoenberg made Los Angeles a kind of Mitteleuropa in exile.

"Künstlers in Paradise" brings 20-something Julian Künstler to Venice as a more contemporary sort of expat. His nonagenarian grandmother and her devoted housekeeper, Agatha, are housebound by the pandemic, and Julian's parents send him west — to help his grandmother but also perhaps to end his aimless dithering on the East Coast.

"I know a lot of these young men who are at a somewhat awkward stage, like Trollope's hobbledehoy, caught somewhere between childhood and adulthood," says Schine. "My love for that stage comes from raising two wonderful young men, although I'm pretty careful not to write about them. I don't want to steal all of their material!"

The story opens, however, in 1939, when 11-year-old Salomea "Mamie" Künstler — Julian's grandmother — lands in Los Angeles with her family. The sophisticated Künstlers (German for "artists") have fled Hitler's Vienna and arrive just as the Nazis invade Poland.

On the day the world changes, Mamie takes in a new world through her car window — a world that today, in many ways, no longer exists. "People just did what they wanted back then," Schine explains. "There were houses with turrets, places designed to look like castles or farmhouses, and you never knew what would be on which corner. And you had all those places that were completely fanciful, like the Brown Derby, built in the actual shape of a hat."

Then there are Mamie's fellow emigrés — the künstlers of the Pacific. "All these brilliant people, conductors and composers and writers and artists, ended up in L.A., and I was completely fascinated reading about them," says Schine. "But I didn't want to write a straight historical novel that might become very fussy." Besides, "one of the wonderful things about writing novels is you can do the research until you've stopped understanding or gotten bored." (Schine pursued a master's degree in medieval history at the University of Chicago but dropped out and "skulked away" to New York. "I was the worst historian," she says.)

She also came late to L.A.'s artistic legacy. For too long, Schine admits, she was "a prejudiced New Yorker who felt that L.A. was a cultural wasteland and that it had no history. Wrong! But what wound up interesting me even more was that when these people came from Europe they didn't always experience success. Schoenberg, Expressionist composer, thought of himself as one of the most important figures in modern music, but in L.A. he can't even get arrested, let alone get famous."

The Austrian did end up teaching at USC and UCLA before there were even standalone music departments, influencing generations of composers. He appears in Mamie's stories, as does Mann, whose beautiful Midcentury Modern house remains an important part of the cityscape.

The book establishes a subtle parallel between Schine's sets of refugees — those in the 1930s watching Europe burn from afar and those weathering the pandemic as it ravages the East Coast.

"One day, after isolation began, I was sitting in our Venice garden, smelling the jasmine and watching hummingbirds and butterflies," Schine recalls. "It was very quiet, no cars on the roads, no planes in the skies, a sort of eerie peacefulness. Meanwhile, when I would talk to people in New York there were sirens in the background, day and night."

She pauses for a moment. "I'm not trying to compare the pandemic to the Holocaust. They are completely different. But I do know that guilt of exile. The feeling when you're safe and the world you love is blowing up and falling apart and dying."

Mamie, like a 90-something Scheherazade, reels Julian in again and again with her stories, knowing just how much to tell him to keep him interested and by her side. She doles out photographs and anecdotes with the panache of a high-end pusher, saving one of the most remarkable for the end: a story about reclusive Greta Garbo, whom she and her grandfather meet on the beach.

"Künstlers" is Schine's 12th novel, but she admits that, with its time shifts and deliberate unfurling, it was particularly tricky to calibrate. "I don't outline my books," she says. "I'm just thinking, 'What happened to Mamie next? How will Julian react?' I do think that the sort of gradual layering of various details became part of the structure."

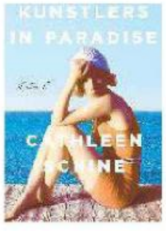
Her loose process has its advantages. It "always" results, she says, in "a sort of peripheral character who ends up being my favorite." In this book, that's Agatha, whose origins are hazy but who never lets her irascible employer down and always has a handbag dangling from her forearm. "I had no idea what was going on with Agatha until the end, but she became more and more important to me as the manuscript progressed. She could have been a throwaway character. Instead, she's more of a load-bearing wall."

Schine is not the type of writer to schedule herself a minimum page count per day; she can go three months without writing a word. But she is thinking about a book, "sort of a 'Buddenbrooks' thing" (referencing Mann's masterwork, written before his stint in the Pacific Palisades). Schine's homage of sorts is about a mercantile family in Bridgeport, Conn., where she grew up and where her father owned a lumber company.

"It's very close to home and a lot of it will be based on my family's fortunes," she says. "I'll see if I can pull it off." Meanwhile, she's trying, after two decades of commuting and three years of isolating, to learn more about the city she now calls home. "I had to train myself to read the L.A. Times instead of the East Coast papers. It's only been a few years. Old habits die hard!"

She confesses that she only recently learned the exact coordinates of the San Fernando Valley. "No wonder I got lost all the time! When I do leave this neighborhood, it's Google Maps, check it twice. It's always an adventure. It's taken me a long time to feel like I live here." But she's studied up. "I do now."

Patrick is a freelance critic, podcaster and author of the forthcoming memoir "Life B."



Henry Holt

FORMER New Yorker Cathleen Schine shifts perspectives and time in a 12th novel.

A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR ESCAPING A FAMILY CULT

BY MARK ATHITAKIS

Noel Besuzzi

TO GET A SENSE of the strangeness — and often horror — of Michelle Dowd's adolescence, you can consult the words she capitalizes in her new memoir, "Forager." She's a member of a family cult called the Field, which is committed to saving Outsiders. To do this, she goes on Trips that include tent-revival stops. In this manner, she and her family will be prepared "should the Apocalypse rain down upon us, and the blood rise to the horses' bridles."

In 1976, when Dowd was 7, her family moved to a 16-acre patch of land in the Angeles National Forest leased by her grandfather, who claimed to be a Christian prophet who would live to be 500. (Spoiler: He doesn't.) At the Field's main compound in Arcadia, Dowd's father and grandfather prepared young men for the end days through Army-style training and rounds of scripture quizzes called Bible Basketball. Girls, meanwhile, were trained in forest survival skills, which included identifying native flora and fending off bears. Her mother is a skilled naturalist, and her axioms repeat themselves in Dowd's head throughout the book: "Don't be afraid. Be competent." "Survive fear. Survive with faith."

Dowd signals some peculiarities of her existence early on. Girls' day clothes are repurposed pillowcases; on Trips, she wears a full-body robe "to keep men from looking at our bodies." On one Trip, the RV catches fire, killing a dog inside, an incident the Field so casually chalks up to God's will that Dowd's sister draws a picture of it — which the driver frames. But Dowd purposely keeps the storytelling at a low boil, evoking the way that this severely antisocial existence felt for years like something normal.

Until, inevitably, it stopped feeling that way. Dowd's change is in part a function of simple curiosity. She was drilled constantly on Bible verses, but began to notice contradictions in the Bible and hypocrisies in the proselytizers. She logs them in a Sears catalog, the sole secular book she possesses.

But the constraints and abuses are as physical as they are psychological, and by its midpoint "Forager" fully becomes the trauma memoir hinted at in the opening pages. The Field is patriarchal and aggressive, with women expected to be chaste and subservient. When uncles arrive at the Field, she identifies which is which "from the way he twists my arm, yanks my hair, or rubs his whiskers along my inner thighs, along the softest places of my body."

Barely a teenager, Dowd has been denied the language to name this as a violation, which makes the story's impact on the page more brutal. All she has is survivalist language: "I don't know what's appropriate for humans. When it comes to humans, I know only the identifying characteristics of apex predators and how to appease them."

"Forager" contains more than a faint echo of Tara Westover's blockbuster 2018 memoir, "Educated," which recalls a childhood in a separatist family before Westover breaks free to become a Cambridge-minted PhD. Dowd, too, broke away: She connected with former Field members ("Quitters"), was excommunicated, attended college and, of course, wrote this book. But the arc of "Forager" isn't as triumphant. It's not, like Westover's, a tale of seclusion replaced with secularism. Dowd shares only enough information about her post-Field life to suggest that her escape in 1986 was successful — and that "escape" is the correct word for what happened.

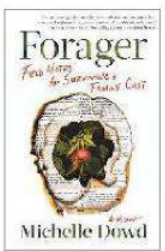
Because the book is so focused on the 10 years during which she was fully a member of the Field, an atmosphere of ambivalence hangs over the narrative. It was unquestionably a time of abuse and violation, made worse because God became a curtain for everybody to hide behind. "Silence is conspiracy, just as it is consent," she writes. "In our family, we turn quiet when we are lost, and we have been trained to look up, not to one another."

Yet Dowd's story surfaces a bitter irony. The wisdom and resolve she required to leave the Field — her survival skills — were taught through lessons designed to keep her there. The book is stronger in some ways for leaving that irony unspoken; it's a prompt to the reader to consider our own adolescences. The risk of Dowd's approach is that it neglects those who didn't or couldn't leave — who lacked Dowd's resolve, intelligence or sheer luck. She notes that the Field still exists but is now a "radically different organization." For better or worse? Knowing how and why it shifted might offer some lessons for what makes family cults — and what might stop them.

Without that big-picture perspective, Dowd leaves the impression she's grateful for the knowledge she's gained, though she wishes she'd acquired it differently. She's left the Field but is "still my mother's daughter."

Every chapter in "Forager" opens with a brief description of a native plant she knew well in the forest: pine cones, succulents, berries, weeds, lichen. Though short, they do some serious metaphorical labor, trained on matters of hardiness and sustenance. The California black oak, for instance, is "strong, sturdy, and self-sufficient" — and, by extension, so is Dowd. She delivers this information dispassionately but with a certain sense of pride, the suggestion being that she thrives just as these plants do, that her traits and nature's are intertwined and that her knowledge of both is a blessing. Self-sufficiency is a virtue. But it's no way to run a society.

Athitakis is a writer in Phoenix and author of "The New Midwest."



Algonquin Books

A CULT'S followers prepare for the end of the world in Michelle Dowd's memoir of childhood.

The thrill is gone in Booker winner's tidy follow-up

BY HILLARY KELLY

NEATNESS WILL kill a novel — throttle it and slowly snuff the life out of it. You know the markers: the quaintly named characters whose destinies match their monikers, the hammer-to-the-head foreshadowing, the dreaded deus ex machina. The literary thriller may borrow a few genre tropes, but in fact it is the perfect place to abandon such stodgy tools, to screw with conventions of morality and political ideology, to swirl together the various gray tones of human behavior.

And yet, not always. After the splayed-legged reach of Eleanor Catton's Booker Prize-winning novel, "The Luminaries," her new follow-up retracts in on itself — not just in size and scope, but in messiness too. The ragged edges are trimmed. The wonderful weirdness is flushed right out. In "Birnam Wood," everything is exactly as it seems. The baddies are very bad, the goodies righteously torn, the speeches politically indignant or just plain hammy.

"The Luminaries" was almost baroque by comparison. It featured a cast as robust as one of those Vanity Fair Hollywood covers that unfurls into a yard-long portrait, with more and more flashily dressed characters peeking around each fold. More than a dozen protagonists jostled against one another in a colonial gold mining town in 1860s New Zealand, kicking up dust, splattering guts and digging up the earth to make its riches their own. There was a celestial rhythm to it — Catton structured the story around a particular astronomical alignment in the Southern sky from 1864-66 — and that held things in place while the story swerved and careened.

"Birnam Wood" has a slightly more demure premise, although its characters are just as concerned with the fortune-making yields of New Zealand's magnificent rocks and soil. A guerrilla gardening group named Birnam Wood (in some oblique conjunction with the famous marching forest in "Macbeth") has been planting its crops on roadsides and unloved plots for years, barely making ends meet, let alone fomenting revolutionary change.

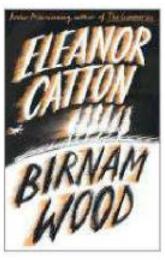
Then its nominal leader, Mira Bunting, meets enigmatic billionaire Robert Lemoine — founder of Autonomo, a nefarious surveillance corporation — while scouting a vast property adjacent to a national forest for its potential as the group's next planting ground. Lemoine has recently weaseled his way into ownership of the land and has his own designs on it, but he tells Mira he'll invest a hundred grand in Birnam Wood to bolster the group's mission — and, he admits, help himself secure New Zealand citizenship and build a survivalist bunker.

The bunker is bunk: Lemoine is actually mining a rare mineral that, if successfully unearthed, will make him "by several orders of magnitude, the richest person who had ever lived." Not just richer, but *the richest*. Superlatives reign supreme in "Birnam Wood."

He is a figure closer to Lex Luthor than PayPal founder and libertarian menace Peter Thiel, who bought himself New Zealand citizenship and whom Catton has cited as a model. Lemoine is a supervillain in the least subtle sense, with near-infinite money, insuperable technology and maniacal plans for a grandiose world takeover. Just give him a lair and a cackle already.

Before his first encounter with Mira, Lemoine intercepts her phone's signal and hacks her data, turning the cell into his personal plaything. He can monitor her texts and browsing, trace her whereabouts and impersonate her in texts — the kind of superpower that saps all the fun out of their David-and-Goliath relationship. His financial supply is seemingly all liquid. He repositions drones like "24's" Jack Bauer and employs former special ops commandos who have all the autonomy of "Star Wars" Storm troopers. When an accidental death pulls Mira even further under his sway, Lemoine pushes the plot even further into the absurd.

MURDO MACLEOD



Farrar, Straus & Giroux

ELEANOR CATTON, prizewinner for "The Luminaries," tries a sociopolitical thriller.

Catton writes him in big block letters: VILLAIN. And she narrates in a close third-person, explaining motivations down to the atom and shutting off any avenue of curiosity her characters might have about themselves. Lemoine admits that he "loved to present as an enigma" (what billionaire doesn't?), that "it made his self-dissections all the sweeter to know that he was outwardly inscrutable, a puzzle to which only he would ever hold the key." And yet, "there was a key. There was a secret to his nature, a clue that explained everything about him, a single eight-week period in his very early adolescence that had forged, in every way, the man that he'd become." It won't surprise you to learn that the "key" is a childhood trauma — and it involves both the CIA and a withholding daddy.

Lemoine is the fixed point in a loveless triangle; moving the trio into more acute or obtuse positions are headstrong but guileless Mira and her erstwhile romantic interest Tony Gallo, a former Birnam Wood member with a weighty chip on his shoulder and delusions of journalistic grandeur. Both are eminently self-assured and foolish to the point of ridiculousness.

Catton's big theme is plunder, and her millennial crusaders are as fervent in their protection of New Zealand's resources as Lemoine is determined to dynamite and exploit them. Though their prose styles dance to very different rhythms, Catton has a Sally Rooney-ish determination to adorn her characters in their political mantras, particularly lefty millennial do-gooderism. The gardeners use the name of one member's mother as "a kind of shorthand for the many evils of the baby-boomer generation, a despised cohort of hoarders and plunderers."

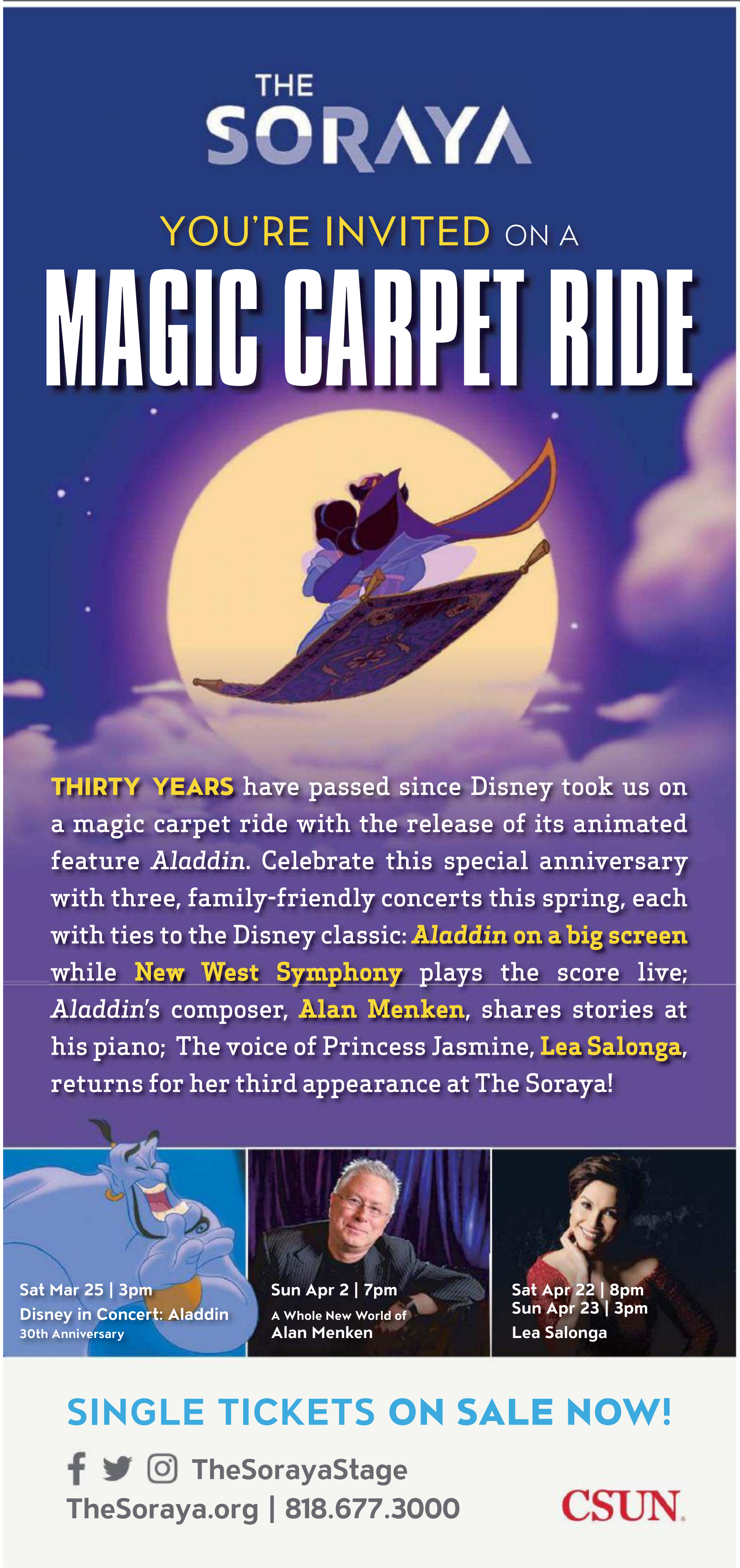
At a Birnam Wood *hui* (i.e., a gathering — a term the gardeners have lifted somewhat warily from the Maori), Tony launches into a tirade against the group's ideological weakness, bleating at them for nine pages about "the *relationship* as the base socio-economic unit," the joylessness of the political left and how "nobody's willing to use the language of morality any more." He eventually stomps out and heads into the forest around Lemoine's land to investigate what the billionaire is up to and "to prove to himself that he was not just yet another Marxist intellectual cliché." He is, and Catton knows it. But the problem isn't cliché; it's politics as a substitute for personality.

Tony is the crusading truth-seeker, Mira the naive do-gooder. For all Catton's rigorous psychologizing, the characters never step out of their frameworks to become people. After Tony takes to the woods and Mira ends up enmeshed in a cover-up, "Birnam Wood" makes an even harder shift into the absurd. The novel splits its pants — its concerns earthly but its outcomes stratospheric, its devices outlandish but its plot twists baldly predictable.

Sure, by the end of "Birnam Wood" there are real, bloody consequences — a muddle of flesh and bone. It's messy, at last, but not quite the mess a novel needs. Guns, one character points out, are hardly ever carried in New Zealand, and yet bullets whiz through the novel's final pages as though Robert Ludlum stepped in as Catton's co-writer. Characters are discarded with a shrug, like early victims in a horror movie.

And what's a critic to do with a melodramatic ending that can't be spoiled but perfectly encapsulates the novel's primary flaw? Let's put it this way: If "Birnam Wood" were a film (and it just might end up as one) its final minutes would feature a slo-mo crawl, a soaring score, a sacrifice for the greater good. Neat and tidy, as if someone took a stiff broom to the plot and swept out all the delightfully dirty corners.

Kelly's work has been published in New York magazine, Vogue, the New York Times Book Review and elsewhere.



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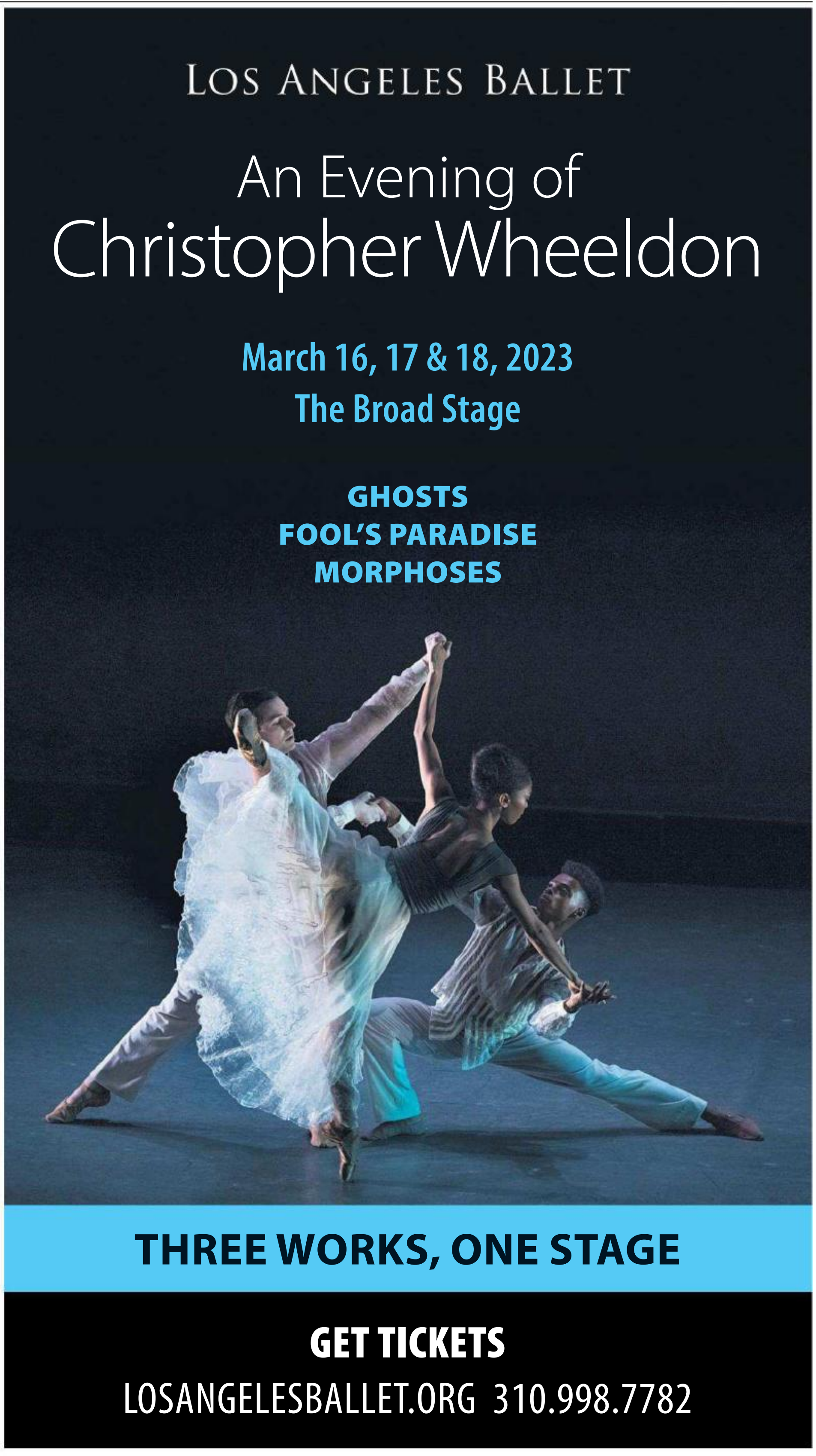

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FAMILIES ROBBED OF THEIR CHILDREN

ROXANNA ASGARIAN UNCOVERS FAILURES OF THE FOSTER SYSTEM IN HART MURDERS AND BEYOND

BY JESSICA FERRI

NEARLY FIVE YEARS AGO, Jennifer and Sarah Hart murdered their six adopted children — Ciera, 12; Abigail and Jeremiah, both 14; Devonte, 15; Hannah, 16; and Markis, 19; by drugging them with Benadryl and then intentionally driving off a cliff on California's Pacific Coast Highway. The Harts were white, their children Black or biracial. Devonte's body has never been found. ¶ The title of Roxanna Asgarian's new book on the case, "We Were Once a Family," does not refer to the Harts. It refers, directly and emphatically, to the birth families of these two sets of children who were taken from their homes and communities by Child Protective Services in Texas, fostered by the Harts and fast-tracked to adoption despite family members who were willing and able to take the children into their homes. ¶ Shortly after the crash, revelations flooded in. The Harts had been accused of child abuse many times, with Sarah given a suspended jail sentence in 2011. Teachers had filed numerous complaints over the children's welfare. The Harts had pulled them from school. How did the system respond? By giving the Harts three more children.

"Unlike many who'd investigated the Harts' story, I was not drawn in by Jennifer's and Sarah's psychological motivations," Asgarian writes. "What motivated me most was to see, and to share, the parts of the story that had been made invisible: The real and complicated families that these children came from. The children themselves."

"We Were Once a Family" is a deeply disturbing account of how the failure of the child welfare system led to the murder of six children of color. In telling their stories, Asgarian gives voice to the families robbed of their children. The author spoke to The Times about her five-year journey with the book. The interview from her home in Dallas has been edited for length and clarity.

When you heard about the murders, did you immediately know this was a story about the failures of the system?

I was bowled over by the enormity of the loss, so it took me a little bit of time to process it. One of the followup stories I read said three of the kids came from Harris County and that was where I was living at the time. As soon as I started reporting, I knew it was a child welfare story.

When was it clear to you that you would tell the story of the birth families rather than the Harts?

There have been several documentaries about the Hart family, and there was a lot of information about them coming out after the crash. It felt like the families were almost deleted from the record. I had been there with them, and seeing their lives and grief, and not seeing it in these stories really made me angry.

No one called Tammy, the birth mom of one set of siblings, to tell her what happened. Tammy went to the police to give a DNA sample and they publicly released a press release before they told her she was a match — a failure of basic humanity. The families felt like an afterthought. Everyone is so interested in what happened to these kids, but not their families?

And all you ever read in the media was how the kids had supposedly come from abusive backgrounds.

Yes, and that was very much Jen's story on Facebook. All you read was that Sherry, the birth mother of the other set of siblings, was a cocaine addict. Seventy-five percent of child welfare cases are around neglect, not abuse. Neglect is living in conditions of poverty. Mom had to go to work. The kids have to stay home alone. The electricity went out because we couldn't pay the bills. These are *not* parenting issues. These are issues with our society. There's something so primal about someone telling you, "You are unable to parent."

MICHAEL STARGHILL JR.

Farrar, Straus & Giroux

ROXANNA ASGARIAN interviews the families who lost six children when adoptive parents drove them off a cliff in 2018.

I appreciated that you brought in the history of Indigenous adoption and trans-racial adoption in this country.

Breaking up families is actually one of the U.N. definitions of genocide. It's so deeply wounding. I tried to bring in a lot of Native experience with the childcare welfare system. It makes it so clear the intergenerational effects. We know that racism is real, and yet we keep asking: How could this happen? With this story there's no getting around the difference in treatment.

Family members were working hard to adopt these children; their cases were dismissed, but the Harts were on a fast track, their abuse ignored.

We talk a lot about how overburdened the childcare welfare system is, but we don't talk about how much of that time is used for investigation on families who haven't done anything wrong. There's this idea that foster families are great, they're selfless. There's so much scrutiny on Black parents trying to parent. You let these people adopt six kids from two family groups, which is an extreme amount of work. To give people that responsibility without doing the due diligence and following up is horrifying.

What was the most emotionally challenging part of writing this book?

I think writing about Ye [the son of Dontay, the only sibling of Ciera, Jeremiah and Devonte who was not adopted]. How he entered the foster system, that was the most difficult part. Ye is about nine months older than my son, and we would strap him into my son's car seat to visit Dontay in prison. I went to every hearing. Just seeing it up close was really ...

Hard on you personally?

I've been taking a break from thinking about it since I finished writing it. I've been thinking about the effect that this book has had on me. And you develop relationships.

Is there anything the Biden administration could do to prevent these things from happening? Or to make it more difficult for cases to fall through the cracks?

As Dorothy Roberts writes in her book "Torn Apart," you eventually come around to abolitionism because this system can't be fixed. It needs to be completely torn down and rebuilt. The punitive aspect of the system is the fundamental nature of this system, and it's not good for children. If they can't do best at home, they do best with their family members. We give kinship families less money than foster families. We don't give *parents* money!

The child tax credit is huge. That makes a real, tangible difference. CPS only bothers kids in poverty. We could increase the legal protections for parents who are involved in the child welfare system. There's problems with the quality of representation and when parents are appointed attorneys. The system is downstream of the entire failure of supporting people with housing, healthcare, drugs, mental healthcare — this is the catch-all area. There are a lot of things we can do outside the childcare welfare system that would have a huge effect.

What do you want birth parents to know about their rights?

In the face of an investigation, Google your state and the rights you have as a parent. It varies from state to state. There are legal helplines you can call. I want all parents to know: No one is a perfect parent. There are so many ways to feel guilty as a parent. If you are involved in CPS, it doesn't dictate anything about you as a parent. It's not a fair system. People have been broken psychologically by this. Families have been destroyed. It's not right.

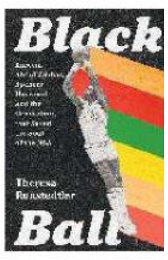
I could spend a lot of time asking "How did this happen?" or "Why did we allow this to happen?"

There's an unknowable aspect to this. It's normal and human to wonder how someone could possibly do this. But you can't answer that psychological question because you're not them. Where we put our focus says a lot about us. The tragedy is about the children. They should be the focus.

Ferri is the owner of Womb House Books and the author, most recently, of "Silent Cities San Francisco."

How the NBA's Black players changed the game on and off the court

Britt Ecker-Olsen Photography



Bold Type Books

HISTORIAN Theresa Runstedtler takes on race and sport in a new book.

BY CHRIS VOGNAR

YOUNG BLACK MEN on drugs! Starting fights! Looking to get paid! This was the collective NBA boogeyman of the 1970s and early '80s, a transitional period in professional basketball and in society. As a majority-Black league embracing a flashy style of play and reflecting the gains of the civil rights movement and Black Power, the NBA entered a new era of visibility. The stars expected to be compensated and taken seriously as human beings. Not surprisingly, the backlash was considerable — among management reluctant to give up absolute control and among a largely white fan base resentful of these new players pulling in big piles of cash (which, by today's standards, would appear to be a pittance).

This is the world of "Black Ball: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Spencer Haywood, and the Generation that Saved the Soul of the NBA," Theresa Runstedtler's wise, engaging and frankly overdue survey of a crucial moment in sports history. This is primarily a story of labor and race, told through the prism of a league approaching but not yet arriving at its current level of mass-produced popularity. It's a story of anti-drug hysteria set in the Me Decade of rampant cocaine use and of a product struggling with its close proximity to the streets. And it's a study of institutionalized racism in a culture changing so fast that its old, white guard could scarcely keep up.

"This is the same period in which the Bronx was burning, and the quote-unquote inner cities were recovering from all of the uprisings that happened in the mid-'60s forward," Runstedtler says from her home office in Baltimore. "There is this anxiety about young Black men being given too much freedom — that this probably is going to lead to some kind of violence ... or criminal activity."

Runstedtler, a professor and historian of race and sport at American University, took a circuitous but illustrative path to her latest subject. An Ontario native, she was a member of the Toronto Raptors Dance Pak in the '90s. A new expansion team, the Raptors began with a youthful startup approach under Black co-founder, general manager and former NBA star Isiah Thomas.

"We didn't look like the typical NBA dance team," Runstedtler writes. "We were more urban athletic than sexy glamour. There was no fixation on weight. Paying homage to African American hip-hop culture, we wore coveralls, bandannas, and sequined jerseys, and we danced to the latest rap and R&B hits."

But then the team was sold to the more corporate-minded Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment. The dance crew changed: "skinnier, whiter, blonder." The hip-hop was replaced by Motown. As Runstedtler writes, "It became apparent that we were performing for the wealthy white season-ticket holders on the floor rather than the regular (often nonwhite) fans in the nosebleeds. In some respects this book has been more than two decades in the making — a way for me to make sense of what I became a part of in the late 1990s."

After studying history and African American studies at Yale, Runstedtler began thinking about and researching what are sometimes called the NBA's "dark ages." The plotlines are many.

There's superstar Oscar Robertson's legal battle against the NBA's option (or reserve) clause, which bound a player to one team for life at the team's discretion. There's the arrival of the upstart, razzle-dazzle ABA, which briefly gave players more choices — a freedom the NBA feared so much it forced a merger in 1976.

There's also Abdul-Jabbar, the cerebral UCLA and Lakers great, who baffled the media by refusing to play its game of feigned politeness and canned answers. There's the hysteria over players' use of cocaine, a drug popular among many people with disposable income in the '70s and '80s, which somehow terrified and enraged the league and the media when rich Black guys were indulging. (An innuendo-driven 1980 Los Angeles Times article helped drive the panic).

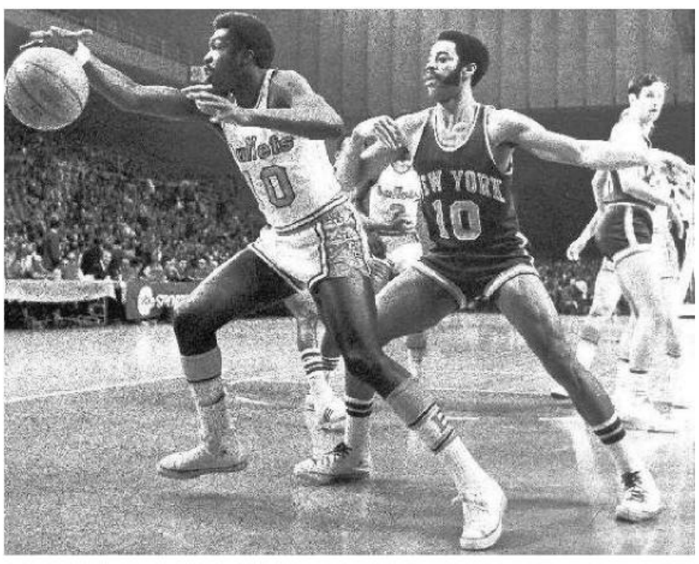
Runstedtler makes it clear that she's aware the NBA wasn't angelic in the '70s. "I'm not saying in the book that nobody was doing coke, but that we need to think about that as a racialized narrative, a moral panic that became this major story about Black basketball players in the years leading up to what eventually becomes a crack-cocaine crisis," she says. "Everybody just falls into lockstep and says, 'Yes, we must punish these guys. We must control them. We must surveil them using police.' " It's the same kind of rhetoric that was used in the increasingly draconian War on Drugs.

The stroke of honesty that guides "Black Ball" is its insistence that our perceptions of race affect how we view the game, and that you simply can't divorce sports from the times in which they are played — and the audiences for whom they're played. Today's NBA has mastered the art of having it both ways, harnessing the league's cool and its Black style without ruffling too many feathers. (This is largely the subject of another fine basketball book, Pete Croatto's "From Hang Time to Prime Time").

"Black Ball" is a timely read at a moment when professional athletes are more outspoken than ever on social issues, and when it's clear that sports and society are inextricably linked. Without the advances chronicled here it's hard to imagine, for example, the NFL pledging $250 million to combat systemic racism (after basically blackballing Colin Kaepernick for his silent sideline protests against police brutality).

It's also important to note that NBA players have been told to "shut up and dribble," or some equivalent, for decades. Runstedtler represents a school of sportswriting and scholarship that recognizes the most important action takes place off the court.

Vognar is a freelance writer based in Houston.



BOB SCHUTZ Associated Press

BALTIMORE Bullets' Earl Monroe, left, and New York Knick Walt Frazier in 1970, a transitional year in the NBA.

BESTSELLERS

Fiction

weeks on list

1. **Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow** by Gabrielle Zevin (Knopf: $28) Lifelong BFFs collaborate on a successful video game. 35
2. **I Have Some Questions for You** by Rebecca Makkai (Viking: $28) A professor returns to her boarding school and gets drawn into a murder investigation. 2
3. **Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Garmus (Doubleday: $29) In the 1960s, a female chemist goes on to be a single parent, then a celebrity chef. 45
4. **Demon Copperhead** by Barbara Kingsolver (Harper: $33) A boy is born into poverty to a teenage single mother in Appalachia. 20
5. **A Day of Fallen Night** by Samantha Shannon (Bloomsbury: $35) A prequel to "The Priory of the Orange Tree." 1
6. **Someone Else's Shoes** by Jojo Moyes (Pamela Dorman: $29) A struggling working woman has a life-changing experience when she tries on a pair of shoes belonging to a wealthy divorcée. 3
7. **Foster** by Claire Keegan (Grove: $20) In Ireland, a father leaves his daughter on a farm to be raised by family members. 11
8. **Victory City** by Salman Rushdie (Random House: $30) A 9-year-old girl becomes endowed with great powers. 4
9. **Murder Your Employer** by Rupert Holmes (Avid Reader: $28) A novel set at a school that teaches the homicidal arts from the singer-songwriter-playwright-author. 1
10. **Horse** by Geraldine Brooks (Viking: $28) Before the Civil War, an enslaved young man, a racehorse and an artist launch a complex story that spans generations. 38

Nonfiction

weeks on list

1. **The Creative Act** by Rick Rubin (Penguin: $32) How to be a creative person. 7
2. **I'm Glad My Mom Died** by Jennette McCurdy (Simon & Schuster: $28) A memoir from the TV star. 29
3. **The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse** by Charlie Mackesy (HarperOne: $23) A modern fable. 92
4. **Unscripted** by James B. Stewart, Rachel Abrams (Penguin: $32) The battle for control of an entertainment empire. 3
5. **It's OK to Be Angry About Capitalism** by Bernie Sanders, John Nichols (Crown: $28) The Vermont senator takes on modern capitalism. 2
6. **Enchantment** by Katherine May (Riverhead: $26) The author of "Wintering" takes readers on her journey to discover what was missing from her life. 1
7. **8 Rules of Love** by Jay Shetty (Simon & Schuster: $29) Romantic advice. 5
8. **Palo Alto** by Malcolm Harris (Little, Brown: $36) A history of Silicon Valley. 1
9. **Love, Pamela** by Pamela Anderson (Dey Street: $30) A memoir from the actor-activist. 5
10. **Spare** by Prince Harry the Duke of Sussex (Random House: $36) A memoir from the British royal. 8

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TV THIS WEEK

By Matt Cooper

SUNDAY

"The 95th Academy Awards" (ABC, 5 p.m.): "Everything Everywhere All at Once" leads the field with 11 nominations Jimmy Kimmel hosts.

"The Surrogate Scandal" (Lifetime, 8 p.m.): A young woman agrees to carry a celebrity couple's child in this new thriller.

"The Last of Us" (HBO, 9 p.m.): This post-apocalyptic drama ends its first season. With Bella Ramsey and Pedro Pascal.

"Naked and Afraid: Solo" (Discovery, 10 p.m.): They're alone again, naturally, in this new spinoff.

"A Spy Among Friends" (MGM+, 10 p.m.): Guy Pearce portrays MI6 officer/Soviet double agent Kim Philby in this new fact-based drama. With Damian Lewis.

MONDAY

"Great Performances" (KOCE, 9 p.m.): David Strathairn portrays a Polish resistance fighter who bore witness to the horrors of the Holocaust in "Remember This."

TUESDAY

"Superman & Lois" (The CW, 8 p.m.): The Man of Steel and his main squeeze are back. With Tyler Hoechlin and Lois Elizabeth Tulloch.

"The Bachelor" (ABC, 8 p.m.): "The Women Tell All," as is their wont, in this special episode.

"Gotham Knights" (The CW, 9 p.m.): Batman's gone but his legacy lives on in a new generation of heroes in this new drama.

"Frontline" (KOCE, 10 p.m.): "Age of Easy Money" examines the sway the Federal Reserve, a.k.a. the Fed, has over the American economy.

WEDNESDAY

"Ted Lasso" (Apple TV+): The feel-good comedy starring Jason Sudeikis as an American soccer coach in London kicks off a third season.

Colin Hutton

JASON SUDEIKIS stars in "Ted Lasso."

THURSDAY

NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament (CBS, TBS, TNT and TruTV; various times.): March Madness gets underway with a weekend of matchups.

"Butchers of the Bayou" (A&E, 9 and 10 p.m.; also Friday): This four-part series recalls a rivalry between two serial killers in 1990s Baton Rouge, La.

"Grown & Gospel" (WE tv, 9 p.m.): Five friends try to make their names in the gospel music game in this new reality series.

"Good Trouble" (Freeform, 10 p.m.): This spinoff of "The Fosters" returns for a fifth season. With Cierra Ramirez and Maia Mitchell.

FRIDAY

"Bono & the Edge: A Sort of Homecoming, With Dave Letterman" (Disney+): Did the U2 bandmates ever find what they were looking for? Find out in this new special.

"Boston Strangler" (Hulu): Keira Knightley portrays a journalist on the trail of the notorious 1960s-era serial killer in this 2023 docudrama.

"Extrapolations" (Apple TV+): In the not-too-distant future, climate change pushes humanity to the brink in this new star-studded drama. With Meryl Streep, Edward Norton, et al.

"Power Book II: Ghost" (Starz, 9 p.m.): The spinoff of the 2014-20 crime drama conjures up a third season. Michael Rainey Jr. stars.

"Great Performances at the Met" (KOCE, 9 p.m.): Soprano Renée Fleming whiles away "The Hours" in this 2022 opera based on Michael's Cunningham's 1998 bestseller.

SATURDAY

"A Winning Team" (Hallmark, 8 p.m.): A women's soccer star kicks it with a small-town coach in this new TV movie. With Nadia Hatta.

"The Hillsdale Adoption Scam" (Lifetime, 8 p.m.): A couple's desperation to have another child takes a dark turn in this new thriller. With Keshia Knight Pulliam.

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Projection Design by Camilla Tassi
GABRIEL FAURÉ — **Requiem in D Minor**
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Abdiel Gonzalez, baritone
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LA Times

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2023 THE BEST OF THE SOUTHLAND LA Times
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY INLAND EMPIRE
2023 THE BEST OF THE SOUTHLAND LA Times
ORANGE COUNTY
2023 THE BEST OF THE SOUTHLAND LA Times
SOUTH BAY • LONG BEACH SOUTH LOS ANGELES
2023 THE BEST OF THE SOUTHLAND LA Times
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Los Angeles Times
WEEKEND
SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023

THE WONDER OF LOOKING UP

22 SPECTACULAR CEILINGS IN LOS ANGELES **L4-7**

The Los Angeles Central Library ceiling, photographed by ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

HOW TO EXPERIENCE SEDONA — SENSITIVELY

LOCALS ARE AFRAID THE TOWN IS BEING LOVED TO DEATH

BY STEPHANIE STEPHENS

BRONEK KAMINSKI Getty Images

WITH ITS TOWERING red rock formations, spiritual vortices and hundreds of miles of hiking trails, Sedona, Ariz., has long beckoned weekend travelers from L.A. And we keep answering the call. Californians make up the highest percentage of Sedona visitors, after Arizona residents. All over social media, you'll find influencers standing in rock tunnels and gazing out into the vast Southwest desert terrain above captions like, "Pure magic." ¶ But many Sedona residents believe tourists are loving their town to death. "Go home tourists!" reads the headline of a forum post by one Sedona resident, who cites bad behavior such as littering, driving ATVs on hiking trails and parking illegally to take "stupid family pics" as reasons for the frustration.

Around 3 million tourists visit Sedona each year — that's 8,219 visitors a day who use the two main roads, State Routes 89A and 179, to traverse the town of about 9,700 residents. The pandemic unleashed more people into the northern Arizona haven, with 3.7 million visiting in 2021, according to Michelle Conway, president of the Sedona Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau.

"Sedona was a safe, outdoor-oriented destination during the pandemic, and we got pummeled with the amount of visitation," Conway said.

But because it's a town heavily fueled by tourism, Conway added, "There's no way to pull the drawbridge up." So with an initiative they're calling the Sedona Sustainable Tourism Plan, the chamber aims to educate visitors about how to be "sensitive guests." It points travelers to the Sedona Cares Pledge (which includes declarations such as "I'll make my own memories, but not my own trails" and "If I can't find a parking spot, I will not invent my own"), along with Sedona's seven Leave No Trace principles, reminding people to respect wildlife, leave what they find, pack out their trash and more.

"We now say goodbye to the idea of our visitor as a mass consumer seeking a few snapshots and experiencing Sedona mostly through a windshield," the chamber's website states. It continues: "We also seek a new bond with travelers who share our love and respect for this Most Beautiful Place on Earth."

In other words, if you're a day tripper who's in it for a few selfies, stay home.

But if you're looking to immerse yourself in Sedona while respecting its residents and environment, then it's worth considering a trip to the beloved Red Rocks Country. Just read these dos and don'ts first.

KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

DO GO DURING OFF-SEASON

Plan your visit strategically. "In the summer, July and August are quite hot, but they're less busy," said Al Comello, a Sedona marketing professional. "Average daily temperatures stay in the 90s, and March to May seem to be perennially the most popular times to visit. In the winter, we do get snow, so summer and winter are also ideal times to visit without crowds."

SedonaTraffic.com offers real-time traffic to help plan your trip.

"We would all be happier if tourism was more moderate and consistent year-round," said Rebecca Schemmer, co-owner of wine and craft beer bar Vino di Sedona.

KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

DON'T SWARM THE MOST POPULAR SPOTS

Sure, you'll probably want to see Sedona's most recognized landmarks, including the Chapel of the Holy Cross, Devil's Bridge Trail and the four most recognized spiritual vortexes — Bell Rock, Cathedral Rock, Airport Mesa and Boynton Canyon. But try a couple less crowded activities as well: Test your mountain biking skills at the Sedona Bike Park or watch birds take off at the Sedona Wetlands Preserve.

Also, with more than 400 miles of trails, most in the Coconino National Forest, there are plenty of opportunities for hiking. Local resident and short-term rental owner Cat Sullivan said the Dawa and Cockscomb trails, on Sedona's northern edge near Dry Creek, "don't get overrun with people." At sustainably farmed Alcantara Vineyard in nearby Camp Verde, server Julie Camponeschi said the West Fork of Oak Creek Canyon is a "beautiful, beautiful hike." It's nearly impossible to get a parking spot on weekends, so go on a weekday.

Check the schedule for the free Sedona Shuttle. My friend and I found a spot at the Thunder Mountain trailhead and enjoyed a just-right, easy-to-moderate hike on Chimney Rock Loop Trail, one of Sedona's lesser-known spots.

DO PICK UP YOUR TRASH (AND REALLY, ANY TRASH)

"People are treating the world, and Sedona, like it's their garbage can," said Mark Troska of nearby Cottonwood. Residents report litter being left in parking lots, on trails and in the water.

"It makes it hard for the locals, who rarely utilize anything here anymore," said Jillian Bradshaw, whose father, John Bradshaw, is an owner of Alcantara Vineyard & Winery, where she works.

She hasn't been to the famous Slide Rock State Park in probably two decades because of crowds and some tourists being so disrespectful, like "wild animals, trashing everything."

A good rule of thumb in Sedona (or anywhere in nature) is to leave it better than you found it. Doing my part, while kayaking with Verde Adventures, I deftly maneuvered my kayak to pull plastic pipe, a green beer bottle and a plastic bottle full of (gag) urine out of the Verde. The ride was perfect, with the gentlest rapids and the only soundtrack coming from the water and birds around me.

DON'T GO OFF-ROADING RECKLESSLY

Observers document reckless driving and unrelenting noise, especially along Forest Road 525 and Boynton Pass Road, about 20 minutes out of town. "If you drive out there, for 250 feet on either side, trees are dead because of dust that falls on them," said Sedona Mayor Scott Jablow. "Photosynthesis can't occur, and we don't get a lot of rain, so they die."

Environmental advocate DeAnna Bindley lives there and cites off-highway vehicles, Jeep, Hummer and dirt bike rentals as frequent travelers. One day she said she counted 320 trips on the road.

"Public land is being tortured and destroyed so people can do these things," Bindley said.

But Brian Carstens, the general manager of Sedona ATV and Buggy Rental, said he "can't police everybody every day." So his company now shows vehicle renters a short video from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and that has reduced bad behavior and damages by 80%. A few basic guidelines: Keep your vehicle quiet (don't tamper with the manufacturer's exhaust system), always yield the right-of-way to hikers and bike riders, and don't ride in closed areas.

"Rappers, basketball and football players come from Austria, the Netherlands, and Switzerland to go off-roading, mostly 35- to 60-year-old males," Carstens said. "Lots of people say this is the best part of their vacation."

KYLE RM JOHNSON

DO CONSIDER LOCALLY OWNED HOTELS OVER AIRBNBS

The number of short-term rental properties in the Sedona area has made it unaffordable for many longtime residents, including local workers. (Last year, the city launched a pilot program that would pay people up to $10,000 to pull their listings from Airbnb and VRBO and sign leases with locals instead.)

Hotels are typically a more sustainable option. And there are plenty to choose from. Elegant and modernistic, the adults-only Ambiente "landscape hotel" opened this month and was designed to have minimal impact on the natural environment. Gaze at 360-degree red rock views of landmarks such as Ship Rock and Coffee Pot Rock.

"Think 'Sedona on IMAX,' " said co-owner Jennifer May. "We save every tree and every piece of greenery we possibly can, to leave this natural forest as natural as possible."

Also in the luxury category, L'Auberge de Sedona on Oak Creek, with cottages, a lodge and super-attentive service, is an exquisite homage to nature with well-cared-for resort cats on-site. At the eclectic A Sunset Chateau Boutique B&B, you'll find lush gardens and outdoor art.

Eight miles out of town, the spectacular Enchantment Resort puts you smack in the middle of a red rocks experience, replete with wildlife, on 70 acres in Boynton Canyon. Hikers and mountain bikers gravitate to the resort's architecturally chic Trail House, an "epicenter for outdoor adventures," with an expansive pool, tennis, pickleball, stargazing, a labyrinth and much more.

"This is the mecca for mountain biking in the United States," said biking guide Steve Tedrick, a.k.a. "Shaggy," who embodies Sedona's zen-like vibe. "I teach sustainable progression on the mountain bike, and it's all about the balance and the flow, surfing the geologic wave, if you will." Surfing that wave down steep hills, over rocks and around sharp corners definitely tests balance and flow — or lack thereof.

According to Brett Briseno, Enchantment Resort and Mii amo destination spa director of sales and marketing, a portion of the tour fee for all hike and bike tours goes directly to the Boynton Canyon Preservation Fund, and resort employees volunteer twice a year to clean up and maintain the trail system. Mii amo also reopened this month after a $40 million renovation and expansion.

For a pet-friendly boutique property, stay at El Portal Sedona Hotel next to the Tlaquepaque Arts & Shopping Village, headquarters for gifted local artisans. Or choose the rustic and moderately priced Sky Ranch Lodge, which has rooms 500 feet above the city, spectacular red rock rim views, botanical gardens and tranquil ponds right on site.

DON'T STICK TO CHAIN RESTAURANTS

When you get hungry, Sedona has more than 50 restaurants to choose from. The owner of five of them is acclaimed chef and restaurateur Lisa Dahl — a.k.a. the culinary queen of Sedona — who estimates that her dining brands Mariposa, Cucina Rustica, Dahl and Di Luca Ristorante Italiano, Pisa Lisa and Butterfly Burger collectively feed up to 500,000 people per year.

"Without tourism, there will be no sustainable Sedona," said Dahl, but she hopes that out-of-town guests will "honor the sacredness and beauty that many locals and tourists want to preserve for many generations to come in perpetuity." My dinner at Mariposa included tantalizing appetizers of portobello three-cheese mushroom empanadas, yucca fries and cauliflower curry bisque. Hint: Make a reservation several months ahead during high seasons.

To go more casual and rustic, opt for the historic Up the Creek on Oak Creek, in Cornville. Try the grilled artichoke and Louisiana gumbo and a wine from a fabulous cellar, accompanied by piano serenades from sommelier, chef and co-owner Jim O'Mealy.

Dahl Restaurant Group

Another must: Drive two minutes to Page Springs Vineyard, which is reminiscent of a Napa Valley vineyard. I loved the hearty Vino Barrio Rojo. Or go casual at Vino de Sedona, selling 900 globally and locally sourced wines.

DO RESPECT THE SACRED LAND

Native Americans discovered Sedona at least 3,000 years before the first white person, Jim Thompson, arrived in 1878, according to Mike Haboush, docent at the Sedona Heritage Museum. "The Sinagua — meaning 'without water' — were here long before the Hopi, Yavapai and Apache," he said.

Visit ruins and cliff dwellings at Montezuma Castle National Monument, Palatki Heritage Site and its sister site, Honanki, or a small hilltop pueblo at Tuzigoot National Monument.

"Don't confuse vortex sites with sacred lands," Haboush said. "During the early '70s and the New Age movement, vortexes became popular places to meditate and feel concentrated energy from the earth. The Native Americans also believed there were 'curtains of energy' in the area."

He adds: Please don't sit and meditate in the middle of a hiking trail or build stacked rock cairns to show "you were there."

"All of the Verde Valley is considered sacred land," said Irina Litvin of One Tribe Tours. The company creates custom itineraries for guests who want to get the most benefit from visiting a vortex area, which may include guided meditations or yoga.

Perhaps the easiest way to take better care of Sedona is to shed the tourist mindset — there are no medals for checking off every spot in your guidebook as quickly as possible.

"Sedona is not about seeing everything," said Steve Segner, president of the Sedona Lodging Council and co-owner of El Portal Sedona Hotel. "It's about slowing down a little bit. Walk any trail, take a deep breath and just take nature in."

In the end, if people respect this magical place, they'll have the same wonders to look forward to when they return.

FOR THE RECORD

Orchid breeder: A profile of Paul Gripp in the March 5 Weekend section said he served in the Navy during the Korean War. He served after the war.

Sycamore District: A story about Sycamore Avenue in the Feb. 19 Weekend section said Beyoncé had a Supervinyl store takeover to celebrate her live album "Homecoming." The event was for her 2022 album, "Renaissance."

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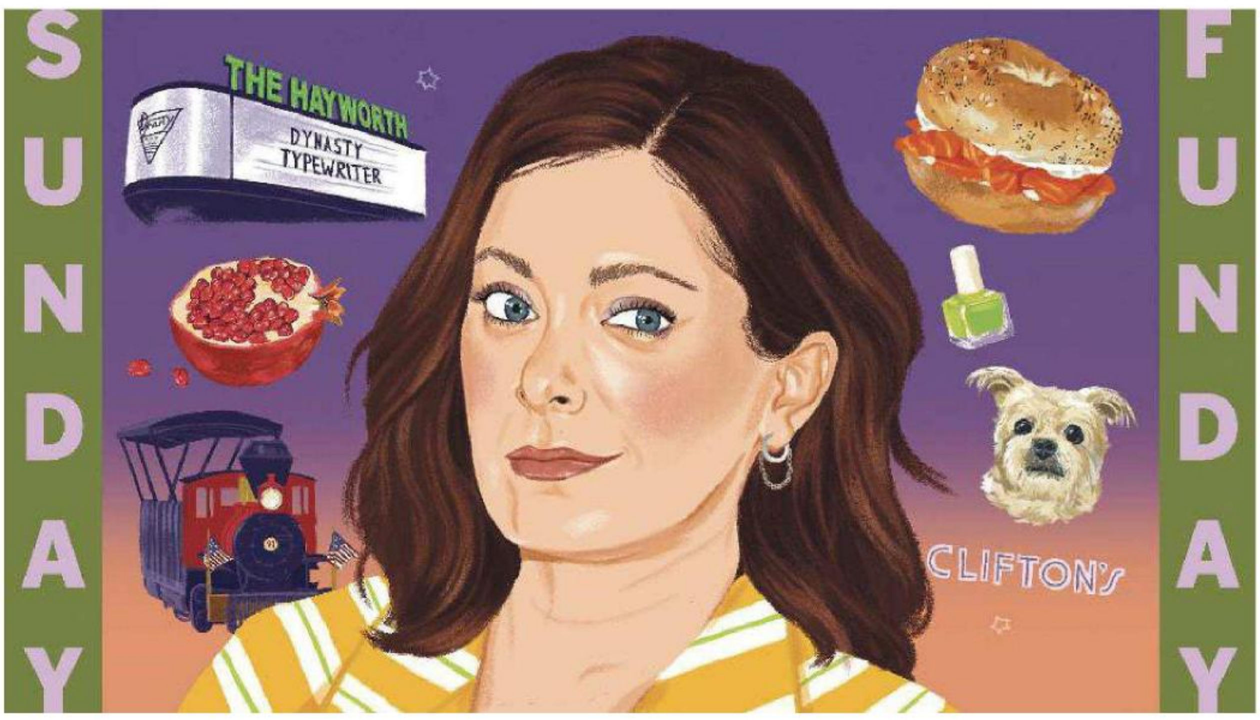

MERYL ROWIN For The Times

PLANNING THE PERFECT L.A. DAY IS CHILD'S PLAY FOR RACHEL BLOOM

TRY DOG WALKS, FAMILY-FRIENDLY FOOD AND MAYBE A SHOW

BY MICHELLE WOO

As the mom of a 2 ½-year-old, Rachel Bloom has had various aha! moments about parenting. One example: "Becoming a parent means you now side with Ariel's dad," she muses on Instagram. And another: "Everyone says that toddlers are selfish, but my daughter has just very kindly given me her beautiful hand, foot, mouth disease from preschool."

But one of the biggest realizations she's had is that raising a kid is *hard*. "Most of us spend 30-ish years of our lives honing skills in anything but this, and suddenly you have a kid and immediately need to become an expert in a thing for which you have had no previous training or experience," she tells me. "There should be mandatory child-care classes in every high school and college. That, and how to do taxes."

Yet for Bloom, the actor-writer-comedian who co-created and starred as Rebecca Bunch in the CW musical dramedy "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" (shoutout to West Covina) and more recently played Hannah in the Hulu comedy series "Reboot," there's joy in the adventure. She calls her daughter "the sweetest, funniest, smartest and most conscientious toddler in the world" (while acknowledging that everyone says that about their child) and loves sharing stories about their days together.

"Lately, she has taken to getting on her toy phone, calling Barney the purple dinosaur, and then when he 'picks up,' saying to him, 'OK, call you later' — as if she weren't the one who called him in the first place. She's gaslighting Barney!" Bloom says.

She and her husband, writer and film producer Dan Gregor, work a lot during the week, so Bloom says the weekend is their time to "be a family."

Here's what they'd do on an ideal Sunday — both in their Silver Lake/Echo Park neighborhood and around L.A.

10 A.M.
TAKE A MORNING STROLL

We'll get up and do a family walk with our dog, Wiley. I love our neighborhood because it is both incredibly suburban and quiet but also minutes away from Sunset Boulevard. I sound like a real estate ad.

11:30 A.M.
ORDER CARBS AND READ THE PAPER

With a toddler, going out to brunch is challenging. So we'll order either pastries from **Clark Street Bakery** or bagels with lox and cream cheese from **Maury's**. My daughter has taken to lox and smoked salmon and salmon sushi. It's awesome. She's like a baby bear. And then we'll sit and read the paper.

1:30 P.M.
OPTIMIZE NAP TIME

This is not the "Funday" part, but her nap time is our time to get errands done. We're always going through her toys, like, "What can we give away? What can we prune out?" I'll clean out my office and catch up on emails. Or I'll get my nails done at **Gloss NailSpa** in Silver Lake.

3:30 P.M.
EXPLORE L.A. THROUGH A TODDLER'S EYES

When my daughter wakes up, we'll do a family activity. I love going to the Children's Garden at the **Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens**. It's just magical. My daughter loves the fountains and the fact that you can go barefoot in the river. That's super fun. And we'll run around and look for the koi. Sometimes there are ducks and bunnies.

We also love going to **Travel Town** in **Griffith Park**. She can ride the train forever and ever and ever. And I love the fact that it's a step back in time. L.A. feels like such an isolated place, and we're just all in our cars. But it's good to remember that Los Angeles was originally a place for great public transportation, including the trains.

Also, any park with a swing? That's really all she needs.

5:30 P.M.
TRY A KID-FRIENDLY DINNER SPOT

A good place for family dinners is **Messhall** in Los Feliz. There's an outdoor section, so if you have a toddler, it's OK. **Greekman's** in Silver Lake is another place we like to go. My daughter is obsessed with pomegranate seeds, and so we'll always get something with pomegranate seeds. And then we'll get some of the pita bread there. Their pita is great. And then usually a meat platter. You know what else is really good for kids, surprisingly? **Girl & the Goat**. Apparently, [chef] Stephanie Izard has her kid try every dish there.

7:30 P.M.
HAVE AN EVENING RITUAL

We'll do a big family dog walk at night. This is very ritualized — it's like we'll do the big family dog walk, she watches "Daniel Tiger," takes a bath and goes to bed.

7:45 P.M.
WELCOME THE BABYSITTER

We're going out! If we get a sitter, that means we have a show. My husband performs at the **Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre**, which is now back, and I perform at **Dynasty Typewriter**.

Or we'll hang out with friends. We went to a birthday party at **Clifton's Republic** in downtown, and now *that's* something we want to do more of. It feels like you're at Disneyland. It's like an amusement park but for adults. I don't know why everyone isn't talking about it all the time! There was a burlesque singer. It was like she was in the swing-dance 1930s era. Every room has a different theme, and it feels like a bar version of the **Madonna Inn**. And I just love kitsch. It's amazing that it exists.

11 P.M.
HEAD HOME

We might make a late-night grilled cheese and watch "Shark Tank." We'll be in bed by 12. Saturdays are when we push it.

In Sunday Funday, L.A. people give us a play-by-play of their ideal Sunday around town. Find ideas and inspiration on where to go, what to eat and how to enjoy life on the weekends.

Los Angeles Times
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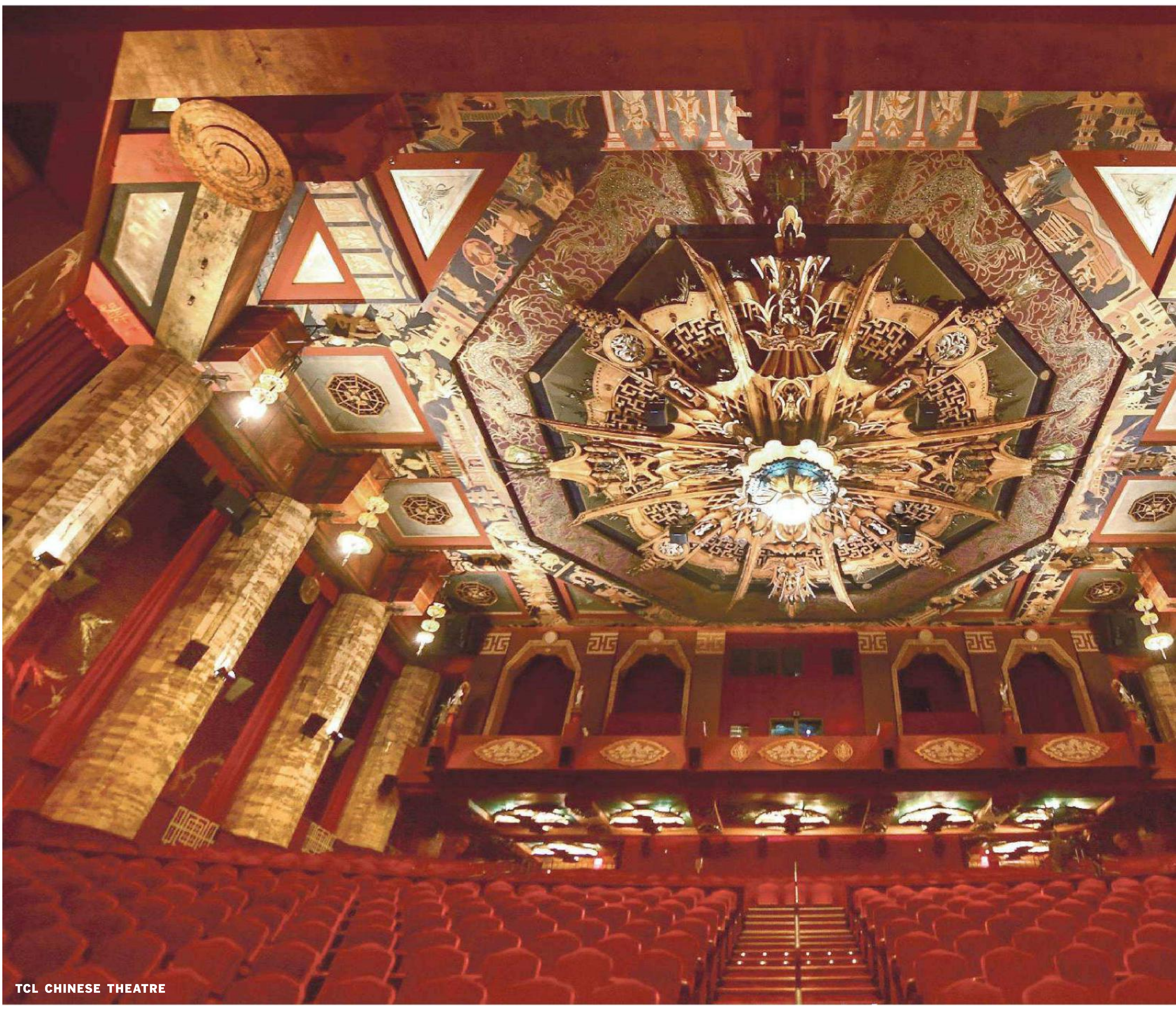


TCL CHINESE THEATRE

Worth getting a neck ache for

L.A. IS A GREAT CITY FOR CEILINGS. MANY ARE WONDERS FROM THE ART DECO ERA, BUT TODAY'S DESIGNERS ARE STILL TRYING TO GET US TO LOOK UP. **BY TEENA APELES**

AS A CHILD, I'd often visit the Griffith Observatory, where my parents took me and my sisters to marvel at the views of the city and see the stars at night through the famous public telescopes. But what I'll never forget is what greeted me indoors, just through the main entrance, when I looked up. ❡ In the central rotunda, a colorful ceiling mural made my jaw drop: There were frolicking animals, joyful children and wondrous figures (some winged, some nude) having a party in the sky with the moon — and I wanted to join them.

The experience of seeing that 1934 mural — by artist and filmmaker Hugo Ballin, whose paintings can also be found in City Hall, the Southern California Edison building, the Wilshire Boulevard Temple and the former Los Angeles Times building downtown — has stayed with me. Throughout my life, it's served as a reminder to gaze upward — or miss the many visual feasts that exist directly overhead.

Over the last several months, I've visited and revisited L.A. destinations with breathtaking ceilings, now with my own young daughter by my side. I've learned about their history and architecture and the massive efforts undertaken to preserve them. (Although many of these ceilings now are protected by local and national decree, rapid development, natural disasters and our own vices — decades of cigar and cigarette smoke, for instance — have taken a toll. If not for the passionate work of artisans, engineers, architects, preservationists and funders, many of these ceilings would not exist today.) Here, I share the 22 most spectacular ceilings I've found, though the selections could easily triple in number.

Let this guide be a starting point for your adventures in looking up. The list, presented in chronological order by each destination's completion date (the oldest was unveiled in 1921), predictably includes historic movie palaces, performing arts venues and places of worship — spaces intended to transport us out of our everyday lives. But other destinations may surprise you: a tiny drinking hole, a neighborhood library or office buildings in the middle of downtown L.A.

There are masterpieces in every corner of the city worth getting a neck ache over.

Here's to the old ceilings and to Angelenos who continue to push creative boundaries with all that's way above our heads.

PACMUTUAL SENTRY BUILDING

It was during a Los Angeles Conservancy Historic Downtown tour that I first saw the remarkable lobby ceilings of the 1921 Sentry Building, which also has been home to the Conservancy's offices since the mid-1990s. Through the archway of the Beaux-Arts building, designed by the firm Dodd & Richards, is an elegant arcade with an ivory and white coffered, barrel-vaulted ceiling two stories high, embedded with sculpted flowers and egg-and-dart molding, with a repeating egg-shape pattern. "There is a definite wow factor. The first time I saw the interior of the building was when I came here for my interview," says Alex Inshishian, the Conservancy's program manager. "I thought to myself that this would be a nice place to work."

The arcade leads to elevators where the ceiling changes to a mustard-colored, primarily rectangular coffered style with decorative molding in an antique white and gold, and more egg-and-dart molding. The suspended, rectangular strip lighting added during a restoration around 2012 to 2014 brings it into the 21st century. Take the marble staircase up to the mezzanine level to see the ceiling so close that if you're of a certain height, you can touch it.

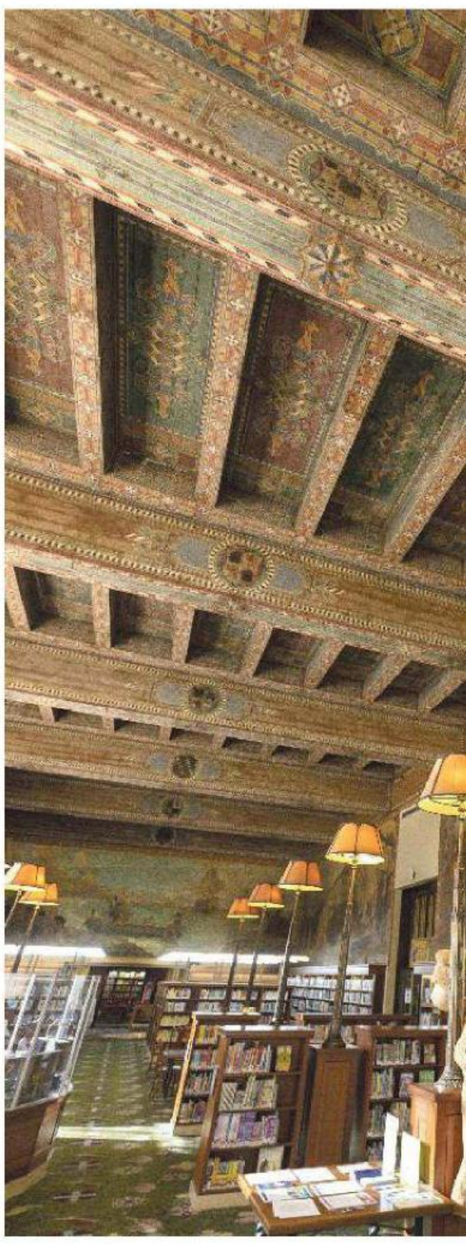
● *523 W. 6th St., Los Angeles, (323) 622-2033, pacmutualdtla.com*

THE BILTMORE LOS ANGELES

Practically every ceiling at the Biltmore hotel, designed by the Schultze & Weaver firm (the Waldorf-Astoria is among its most famous projects) and Palermo, Italy-born muralist and interior designer Giovanni Smeraldi, is a magnificent work of art, evoking old Europe more than downtown Los Angeles. Entering from Grand Avenue, take in the palatial luxury of the lobby, including a coffered ceiling that is rich in dark colors, opulent carvings and embellishments, with a large, decoratively framed, lighted centerpiece.

Proceed to the long galleria, where a stunning octagonal coffered and painted ceiling of brighter colors and lighter moldings greets you. It's a must to promenade from end to end, as above each circular chandelier is a mural mosaic radiating from it featuring goddesses and nymphs at play, as well as bronze filigrees.

Midway, take the red-carpeted steps past the elevators for an up-close view of the ceiling of the original lobby, now called Rendezvous Court. It's a Moorish Revival-style vaulted wood ceiling with painted and carved vertical beams dancing from end to end. Note the 24-karat gold accents! Then descend like royalty down one of the staircases. I've enjoyed afternoon tea here as an early 20th century time machine outing. My favorite memory of the court was during the first Women's March, when hundreds of demonstrators casually walked in to eat or use the hotel's facilities — the staff were gracious hosts — and I saw unsuspecting first-time visitors' expressions of absolute shock, then awe, upon seeing such grandeur.



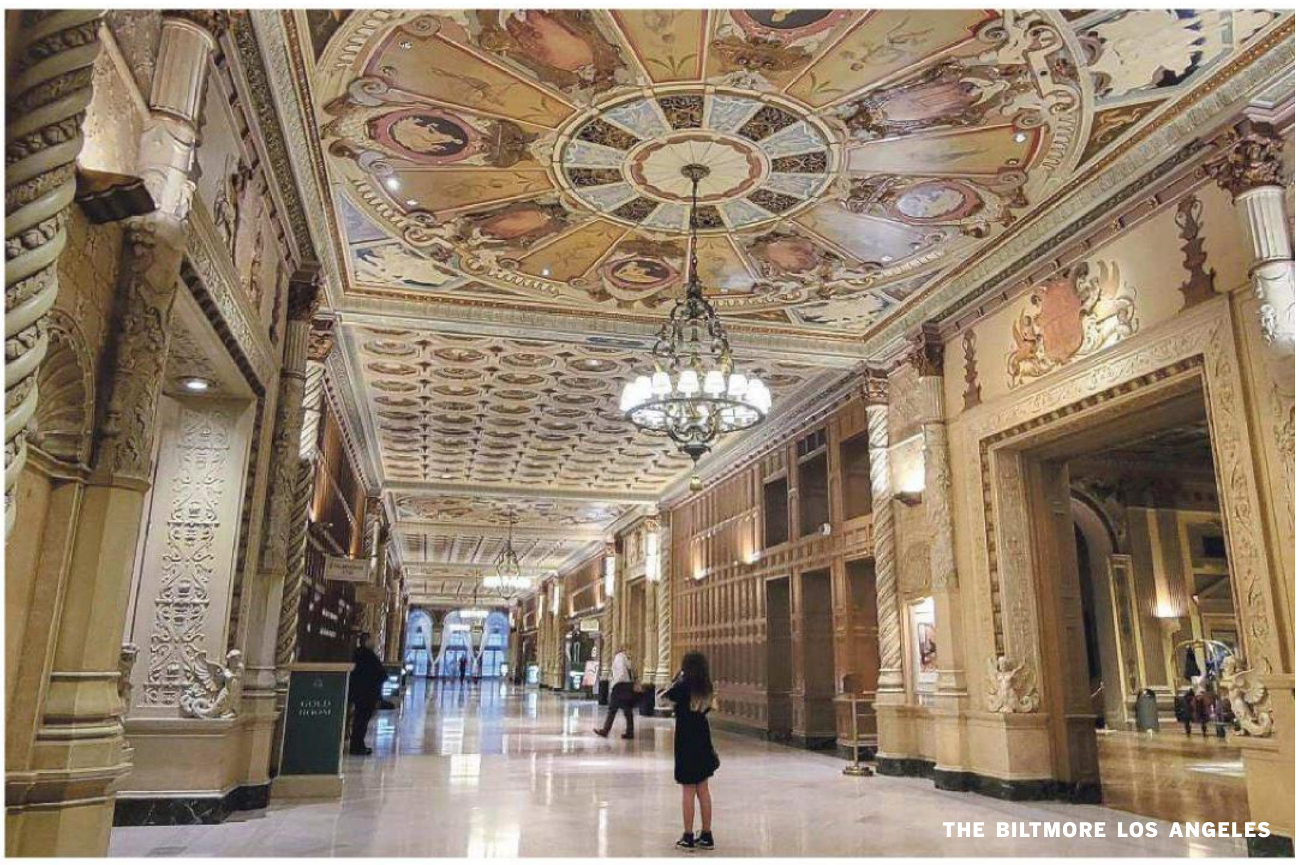
There are many more Biltmore ceilings to admire beyond these three, such as the ballrooms and Galleria Bar. If you can't wait to visit, I recommend the hotel's 3-D Model Gallery online for a gratifying peek.

● *506 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, (213) 624-1011, millenniumhotels.com/en/los-angeles/millennium-biltmore-hotel-los-angeles*

LOS ANGELES CENTRAL LIBRARY

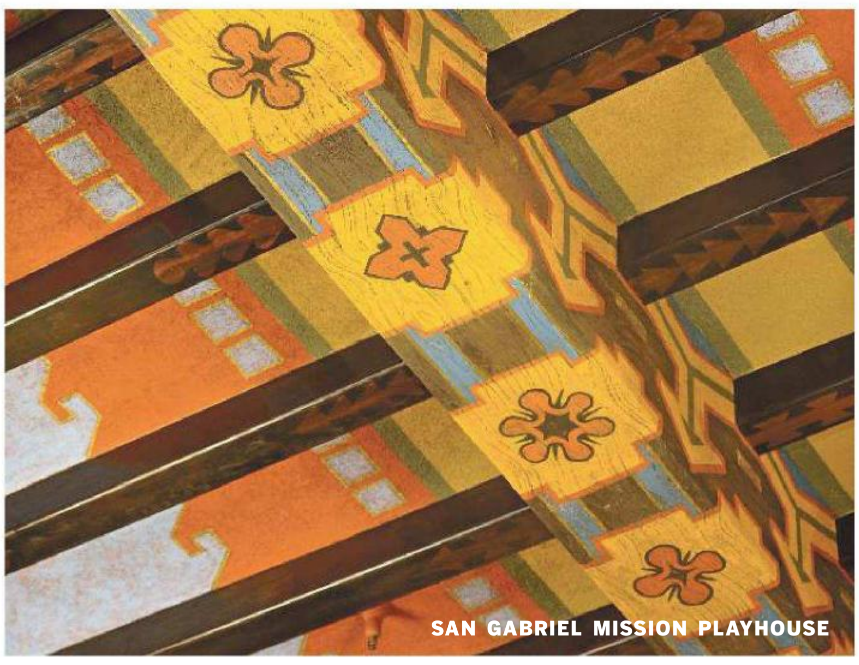
A short walk from the Biltmore is one of our city's absolute treasures. With eight floors totaling more than 500,000 square feet, which of the ceilings here are must-sees? Most people will immediately say the rotunda, located on the second floor of the original 1923 library building designed by architect Bertram Goodhue that now bears his name. There's nothing quite like being dwarfed by the rotunda's 64-foot-high dome, with its exquisitely painted ceilings (and supporting arches) by Julian Garnsey and surrounding murals by Dean Cornwell. You can daydream while gazing up at the brightly illuminated globe

Frederic J. Brown AFP via Getty Images



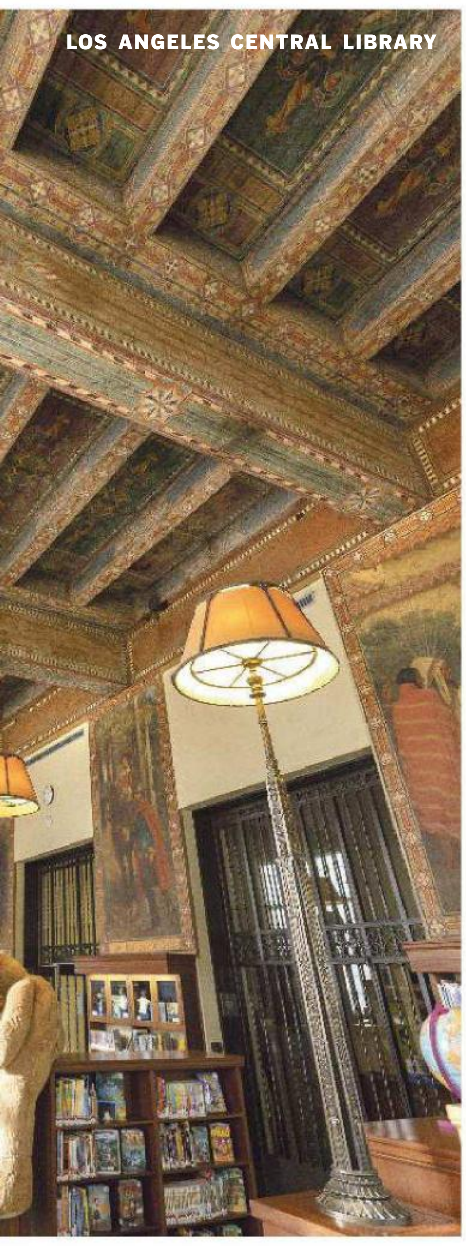
THE BILTMORE LOS ANGELES

Teena Apeles



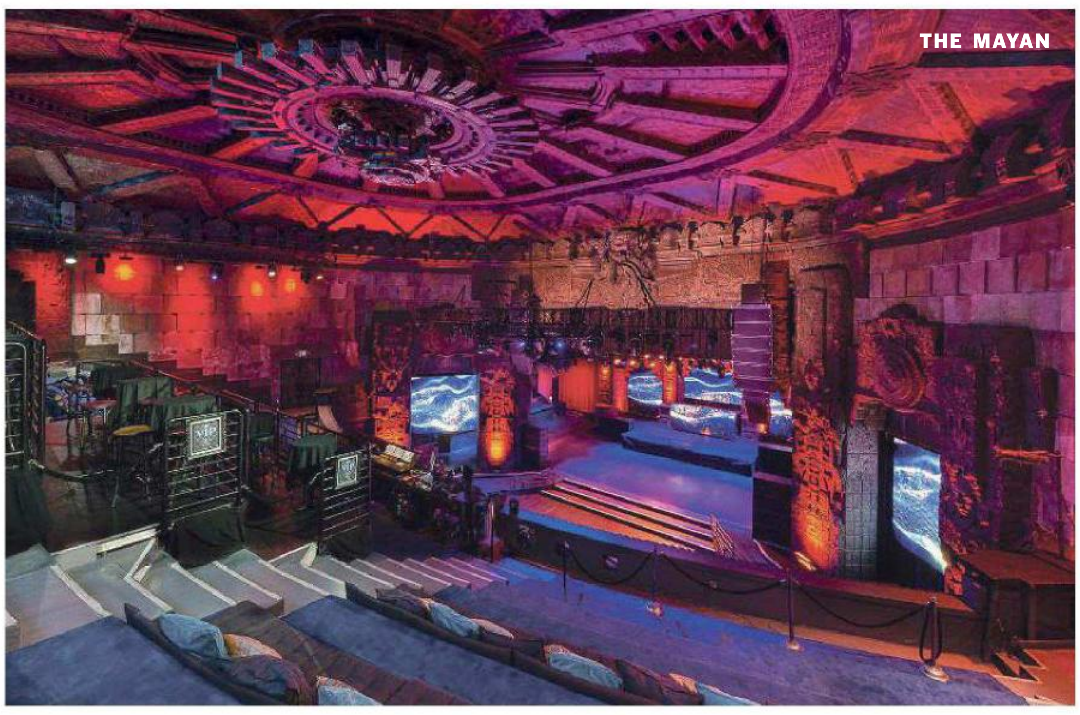
SAN GABRIEL MISSION PLAYHOUSE

Johnny Vy



LOS ANGELES CENTRAL LIBRARY

Allen J. Schaben Los Angeles Times



THE MAYAN

Timothy Norris

chandelier by Lee Lawrie, encircled by a bronze zodiac ring.

Others are drawn to the openness of the modern atrium, with its barreled glass ceiling and melon-painted framework, of the Tom Bradley Wing that opened in 1993. It was designed by the firm Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates led by architect Norman Pfeiffer.

I appreciate both the rotunda and the atrium (and mourn what was lost in the 1986 fire). But can you relax and read in these spaces?

Try other incredible historic rooms with Garnsey-painted ceilings off the rotunda. Architects Brenda Levin and Robert Coffee were brought in to renovate and repurpose spaces in the Goodhue building, since the new wing would hold the majority of the library's collection. This led to a former reading room becoming the children's department, with a high, cement-beamed ceiling painted to appear like wood with patterns and illustrations. I love how the beams run parallel to the department's rows of bookcases below. (For older kids, head to Teen'scape, the former Fiction Reading Room that also features Garnsey's work.) Much lower, similarly styled ceilings are found in the Language Learning Center, which is often packed with patrons intently reading and has half-dome chandeliers hanging throughout. For a deeper dive, take one of the library's daily tours.

● *630 W. 5th St., Los Angeles, (213) 228-7000, lapl.org/branches/central-library*

EL CAPITAN THEATRE

Housed in a Spanish Baroque-style office building by architect Stiles O. Clements, the El Capitan hosted live theater when it opened in May 1926, with architect G. Albert Lansburgh designing its interiors with that in mind. Step under the famous marquee for a heavy dose of East Indian-inspired decor before you even walk through the doors. A fancifully illustrated ceiling with molding galore and a gold leaf-sculpted centerpiece at the entrance immediately entrances those coming from Hollywood Boulevard. The dramatically lighted, arched proscenium abuts a ceiling with diamond-shaped coffers that stretches above the balcony (my favorite place to sit) — collectively transforming every film screened here into an event.

It's difficult to fathom that the proscenium was ever covered up, but that was the case when a far less adorned suspended ceiling and heavy draping were added during a 1941 remodel, intended to modernize the venue when it reopened as the Hollywood Paramount to screen films. When Walt Disney Co. and Pacific Theatre took ownership of it, they assembled a dream team — theater designer Joseph J. Musil, architect Ed Fields and conservator Martin Weil — to restore much of the interior to the original 1926 design. Today the El Capitan thrills audiences of all ages, showing Disney films coupled with opening live performances, and occasionally with falling snow, which delighted audiences at screenings of "Frozen."

● *6838 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, (818) 845-3110, elcapitantheatre.com*

THE MAYAN

There is no shortage of ceiling eye candy at the 1927 Mayan theater by Morgan, Walls & Clements, a departure from the Art Deco and Streamline Moderne styles for which the firm (also responsible for the Wiltern Theatre and Thomas Jefferson High School) is known. Inspired by news stories of treasures being unearthed in Central America, then-manager Gerhold O. Davis conceived the theme, with Stiles O. Clements leading the project.

Nearly every ceiling and surface throughout the venue was given a unique and jaw-dropping treatment. One standout is the theater's massive centerpiece reminiscent of the Aztec sun stone; it has a bit of a steampunk vibe, with radiating pieces that resemble gears. Behind it are painted coffered panels, some with figures, others with decorative designs. The interior and exterior's heavy embellishments were primarily created and informed by the research of Mexican artist Francisco Cornejo.

In a 1927 article on theater decoration, Times art critic Arthur Millier wrote, "The authentic and beautifully combined decorative elements such as the proscenium … the sculptural treatment of the ceiling and great central lighting fixture, the carven panels that abound in the walls — these things could easily have been ruined by injudicious coloring." Imagine if he could experience the Mayan with 21st century lighting during a packed Lucha VaVoom event. Those performers flying overhead beneath the large disco ball give the ceilings some serious competition.

● *1038 S. Hill St., Los Angeles, (213) 746-4674, themayan.com*

THE THEATRE AT ACE HOTEL

The United Artists studio was dreamed up at downtown's Alexandria Hotel (which has its own impressive ceiling). Blocks away in the famed Broadway District, Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks and D.W. Griffith erected the studio's headquarters and a theater worthy of movie premieres, completed in 1927. Now the Ace Hotel and Theatre, the venue's interiors are as bold as the group's move to leave the studio system, thanks to veteran theater designer and architect C. Howard Crane.

A dazzling ceiling in the lobby mimics ancient tapestries and stained-glass portraiture, and Gothic ornamentation amazes throughout the theater — you'll want to touch whatever is within arm's reach. The ornate decor supposedly was at the urging of Pickford, who became enamored of the architecture at Spain's Segovia Cathedral during her and Fairbanks' honeymoon. The auditorium's framed oval dome of mirrored tiles in the vaulted ceiling captures the imagination. When lighted, it appears like a portal to other worlds. It's no wonder televangelist Gene Scott was drawn to it, renaming the theater the Los Angeles University Cathedral when his church leased the building in 1999. Scott and his followers remained there until the Ace Hotel acquired the building and venue in 2011.

● *929 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, (213) 623-3233, acehotel.com/los-angeles/theatre*

SEE MORE CEILINGS: Scan this QR code to view more spectacular ceilings.

SAN GABRIEL MISSION PLAYHOUSE

If you're a fan of the Mission Inn in Riverside, there's another destination where you can admire Arthur Burnett Benton's work. He was chosen by playwright John S. McGroarty to design the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse, which was completed in 1927 to host the run of McGroarty's masterwork, "The Mission Play," which he'd written in the Mission Inn. (Architect William J. Dodd also contributed to the playhouse's design.) It's unclear who was responsible for the beautifully embellished ceilings and beams in the lobby and auditorium — the bright blue panels with sunbursts in the theater especially catch the eye — though the son of renowned muralist Anthony Heinsbergen, Tony, believed his father was. After all, Heinsbergen's work graces more than 750 theaters in the U.S.

The playhouse experienced significant damage in the Whittier and Northridge earthquakes and has undergone reconstruction and (ongoing) restoration to preserve its architecture and plaster and metal lath ceilings. Around 1996 to 1997, to address uneven fading and damage, fine artist and restoration painter Evan Wilson was brought in to repaint them. "He took the painstaking process to get everything exactly the same, with the same color" as the original, says Josh Fairman, who has worked at the playhouse since 1996. Wilson also received permission to transform the faces of the four Spanish conquistadors illustrated on the beams to McGroarty; the theater's then-manager, Bill Shaw; then-City Manager P. Michael Paules; and, "of course, he had to put his own face up there."

● *320 S. Mission Drive, San Gabriel, (626) 308-2685, missionplayhouse.org*

TCL CHINESE THEATRE

Known around the world, this theater is on every tourist's itinerary. It's not enough to simply visit the forecourt of celebrity hand- and footprints at Grauman's Chinese Theatre (now a TCL Imax theater), designed by Meyer & Holler with Raymond Kennedy. You must also experience its interiors, decorated by John Beckman. The ceiling alone is worth the ticket price. Sid Grauman's other themed movie palace down the boulevard, the 1922 Egyptian Theatre, also has a spectacular ceiling, but here he spared no expense: Grauman spent $2.1 million to build the Chinese Theatre, more than double the Egyptian's cost. (Pickford and Fairbanks were co-owners of the Chinese.)

On the 90th anniversary of the theater's opening in 2017, Times contributor Susan King reported that the show-stopping ceiling medallion is constructed of wood sourced from China and that Beck-

[See **Ceilings,** L6]

[**Ceilings**, from L5]
man created the stencils used for the surrounding murals, which include detailed illustrations of fierce dragons, painted in shimmering gold. The ceiling was hand-painted by artisans who did so on scaffolding 90 feet high. Don't miss the murals by Chinese-born actor and artist Keye Luke in the lobby.
● *6925 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, (323) 461-3331, tclchinesetheatres .com/imax*

THE OVIATT BUILDING

You can't talk about Art Deco in L.A. without mentioning the James Oviatt Building, a high-rise named after its original owner and constructed by Walker & Eisen. It originally housed the men's high-end clothing store Alexander & Oviatt and now is home to the Cicada restaurant/nightclub. The building's unique lobby ceiling is populated by flush-mounted, geometric-shaped light fixtures; I learned from Oviatt historian Marc Chevalier that these are a simplified version of the original, more opulent 1928 design that featured etched glass panels designed by Gaëtan Jeannin and framework by Ferdinand Chanut. "In an attempt to 'modernize' the building ... its ceiling panels were removed and sold off in 1967, and the framework was dismantled and destroyed," explains Chevalier, who researched, wrote and produced the 2008 documentary "The Oviatt Building," directed by Seth Shulman. "Half of the original ceiling panels still exist: They are currently owned by LACMA," says Chevalier.

To passersby who happen to wander in for a closer look or have taken a guided tour, the plastic light fixtures added in 1979 still inspire wonder and, in the case of my daughter and her friend, impromptu joyful dances below them. Chevalier encourages everyone to take time to admire the original cornice of etched and painted glass panels, which is beautifully illuminated when the sun goes down.
● *617 S. Olive St., Los Angeles, theoviatt.com/history*

LOS ANGELES CITY HALL

Do the ceilings of our City Hall, completed in 1928, have as much personality as our civic leaders, past and present? Indeed, and some even have images of past leaders embedded in them. Local architects John Parkinson, Albert C. Martin and John C. Austin worked together on the primarily Art Deco building's design, while fellow architect Austin Whittlesey oversaw its interiors. But the greatest painters of the day — Herman Sachs and Anthony Heinsbergen and their respective teams of artists — brought City Hall's ceilings to life.

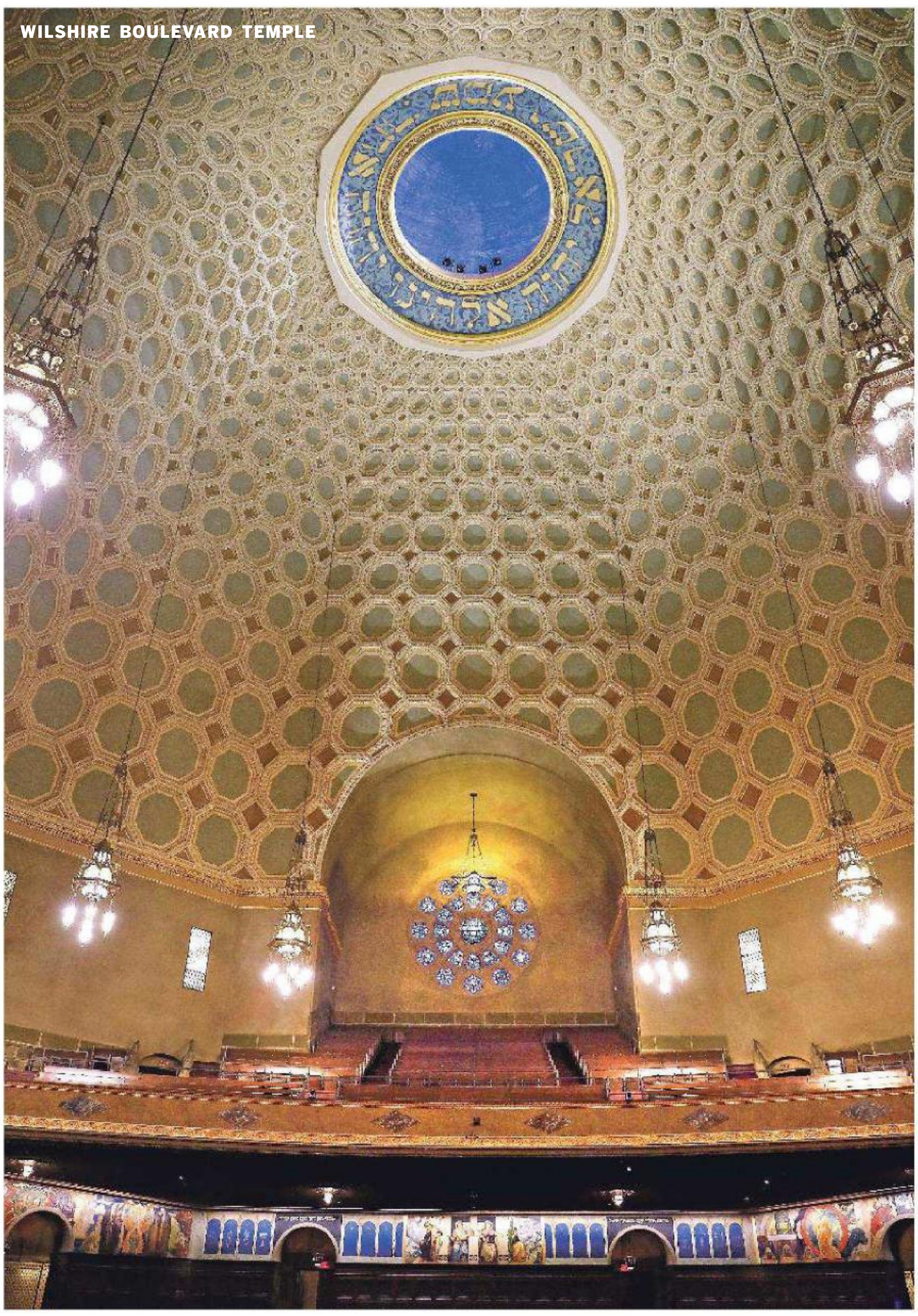
Stephen Gee explored their work in great detail in his book "Los Angeles City Hall: An American Icon." Sachs decorated the Board of Public Works Session Room ceiling beams with intricate patterns in gold and the city seal at its center. In the corridor, such historical figures as Alta California governors Juan Bautista Alvarado and José Figueroa are painted on the ceiling beams. While you're looking at the council chamber's ceiling, find Venus, Apollo and Mercury (who is also featured in Sachs' Bullocks Wilshire mural), among other gods, along with zodiac signs.

Heinsbergen did many of the lobby ceilings (north, south, east and elevator), which feature decorative patterns, starbursts, medallions and mythical figures. Often they had deeper meanings, particularly the east lobby's dome, with "a star-shaped medallion ringed by the signs of the zodiac and an inscription reading, 'The Masters of Education Hold in Their Hands the Future of the World,' " which Gee points out in his book. "The pendentives in the dome featured a series of murals portraying earth, wind, water, and fire," he writes. "Other nearby panels highlighted commerce, civil engineering, science, and other themes."
● *200 N. Spring St., Los Angeles, (213) 473-3231, lacity.gov*

WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE

The Wilshire Boulevard Temple, which opened in 1929 and was named Temple B'nai B'rith until 1937, is one of those buildings you can't miss thanks to the size of its Byzantine-style dome, 135 feet in diameter and more than 100 feet high. Home to the oldest Jewish congregation in Los Angeles, founded in 1862, its sanctuary was designed by A.M. Edelman. The inner dome consists of large coffered plaster octagons with gilded molding; at its apex is a blue-painted, illuminated oculus encircled with a Hebrew prayer in gold that translates to "Hear O Israel, the Lord Our God, the Lord Is One."

Part of the beauty of seeing it for the first time is the transition from the dark corridor around the sanctuary, which serves as a buffer against the sounds of Wilshire Boulevard and outside light, to the grand reveal. Perhaps it was one of the many theater design elements requested by Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin, who led the congregation for 69 years and counted many legendary Hollywood producers among his congregants and friends.



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

From 2011 to 2013, the building underwent a major restoration. One of the more entertaining stories I learned about what prompted it involved members gathered in the sanctuary who were startled to find it snowing inside. (It was actually flaking paint from the dome.) "The restoration decision was largely driven by the fundamental decision to honor the congregation's place in the city of L.A. historically and geographically," says Don Levy, the temple's director of communications. The false snowfall "demonstrated the absolute need of repairs. ... From there, we embarked on a decade of restoration and redevelopment of the entire block." Temple leadership sought out the most skilled artisans and architects — namely, Brenda Levin, the lead project architect, who oversaw the restoration of other historic buildings on this list — and dug into the temple's photo archives to maintain the integrity of the original design.
● *3663 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, (213) 388-2401, wbtla.org*

THE WILTERN

"It's a very special experience to walk into a place where your jaw just drops at how ornate it is," notes Margot Gerber, president of the Art Deco Society of Los Angeles. "With movie theaters or live stage theaters, that's part of the experience — coming out of the everyday world and into someplace that is pure fantasy." That's true from the get-go at the Wiltern, which opened in 1931 as the Warner Bros. Western Theatre in the Pellissier Building, another stunner by architect Stiles O. Clements, with interiors by G. Albert Lansburgh and murals by Anthony Heinsbergen.

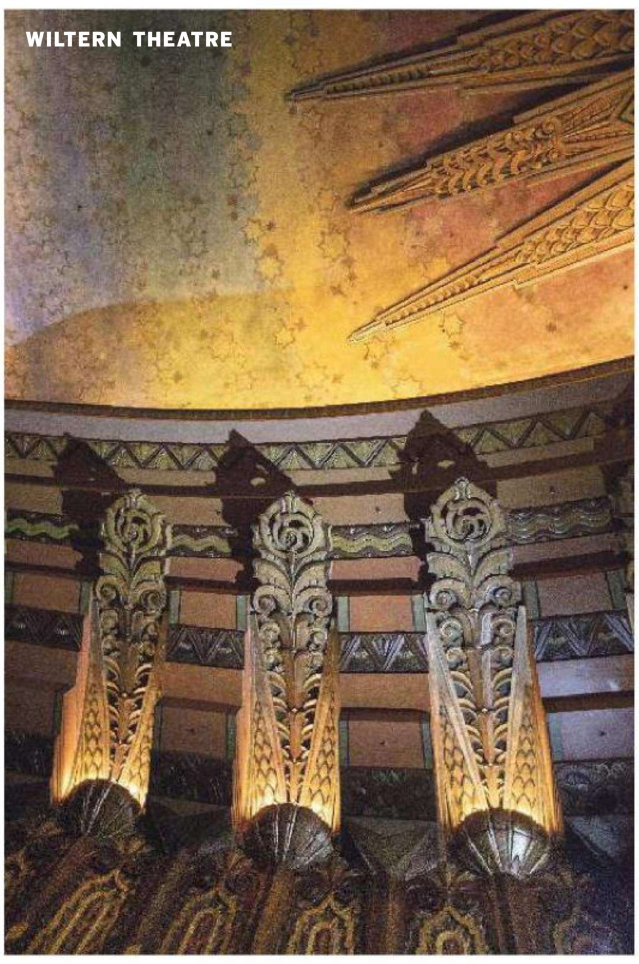
At the entrance, the monochromatic sculpted wonder of the ceiling above the ticket booth is truly a gift to the city. And in an area of town where so many communities intersect, there are no barriers or walls or entry fee to experience it.

Inside, colorful murals decorate the entrance lobby, mezzanine level and orchestra bar ceilings. (Heinsbergen's son, Tony, worked on the restoration of the ceilings and murals in the 1980s, according to Mike Hume's Historic Theatre Photos site.) On the 80-foot-high auditorium ceiling, a dreamy Art Deco cityscape fans out from the stage against a rainbow mural, with each arc of color bordered by dancing stars. It's the stuff that dreams — and Los Angeles — are made of.
● *3790 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, (213) 388-1400, livenation.com/venue /KovZpZAEAl6A/the-wiltern-events*

PANTAGES THEATRE

The B. Marcus Priteca-designed Pantages opened to much fanfare in 1930 and continues to thrill, especially at its entrance. The Art Deco starburst ceiling design is especially magical on a quiet night on the boulevard, with the theater's doors closed and the always-animated crowd seated inside. Standing under its multitude of lights late in the evening for maximum wonder, I asked an attendant if the sight of it ever gets old. He replied with a firm "no."

Once inside, there's the barrel-vaulted ceiling of its lobby, where geometric shapes abound, and Anthony Heinsbergen's highly ornamented theater ceiling with tiered, multifaceted glass and a bronze starburst chandelier that can steal



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

the show. The prolific artist and designer decorated more than 750 U.S. theaters, including 21 others for theater mogul Alexander Pantages. Make sure to take in the ceiling mural at the orchestra level: You'll find lobsters in it.

"The great thing about the Pantages is that everywhere you look, there's something new to discover. There are statues built into the walls depicting moviemaking and classical figures that have cameras," says the Art Deco Society's Gerber. "It was really an ode to Los Angeles and to the fledgling movie industry and just really glamorized it. And fortunately, it was right in that Art Deco period. So everything is incredibly geometric and angular."
● *6233 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 468-1770, broadwayin hollywood.com*

WARNER GRAND THEATRE

Situated along a quiet two-lane street of one- to three-story buildings in San Pedro (across the street, the 1924 Arcade Building is among the most beautiful), the Warner Grand Theatre's location makes it feel very much a small-town treasure versus a city landmark. But the people who created what was originally a movie theater that opened in 1931 are as accomplished as they come: B. Marcus Priteca, Anthony Heinsbergen and, of course, the studio behind the theater: Warner Bros. There is color, there is grandeur and there are ornate features, all of which attracted our nation's 39th president, Jimmy Carter, and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter to come see — and help clean — it in 2007.

On the balcony's underbelly are striking hand-carved medallions covering the air vents. "All of this 'cutwork' in here was just caked with dirt and grime and 80 years of whatever," says Warner Grand's director, Lee Sweet, pointing to them. "Habitat for Humanity decided to come, and they had a bunch of their folks,

UNION STATION

WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL

including [longtime volunteers] the Carters, and they brushed out all the junk with little soft brushes." The theater's ceiling is a marvel, with carved-wood flourishes, multicolored floral stenciling and a multilayered centerpiece of varying shapes — with four stylized palm-frond-like pieces branching out diagonally to each corner and a chandelier at each tip. Visit the theater before its projected closure for restoration and renovation, starting in July.
● *478 W. 6th St., San Pedro, (310) 548-2493, culturela.org/cultural -centers/warner-grand-theatre*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON BUILDING

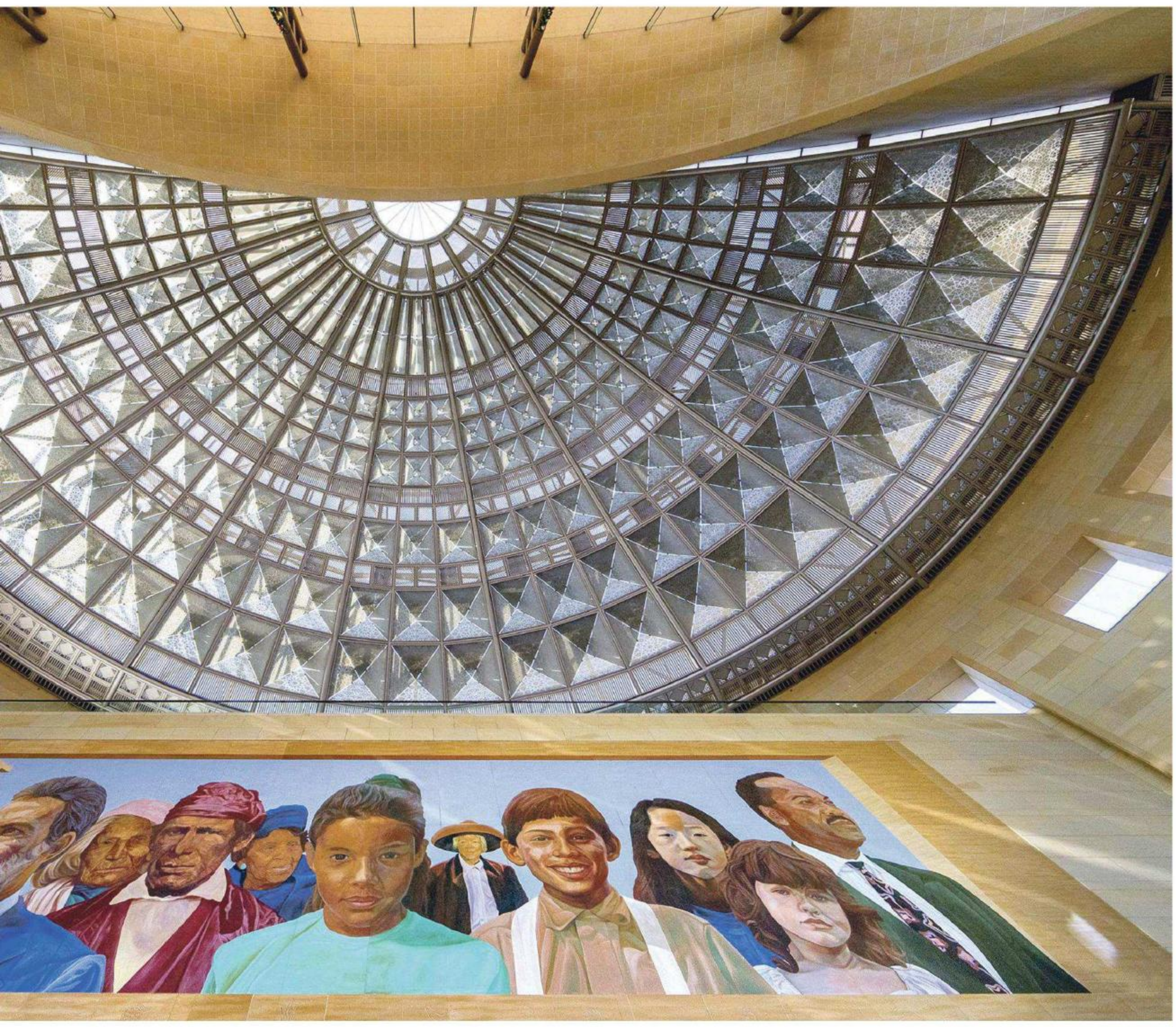
Coffered ceilings — which feature a series of recessed panels on their surface — get a lot of love on this list because it's simply not a matter of if you've seen one, you've seen them all. What sets the Southern California Edison Building's apart is the sheer grandeur: It's a soaring, decoratively painted, molded ceiling (so many beautiful flourishes!) bounded by repeating rectangular pillars.

Designed by the architectural firm Allison & Allison and completed in 1931, the CalEdison lobby's ceiling changes into a flurry of deep octagons and squares as you step onto the black-and-white checkered floor toward the elevator. Each octagonal coffer has a gilded rosette set against a greenish-blue background, surrounded by white and (to my eye) dusty pink gold-bordered frames and attractive molding. Two grayish-green marble octagon pillars that shoot up from the floor into the ceiling make the scene all the more remarkable. Sunlight from the tall surrounding windows highlights the beauty of the ceiling in different ways throughout the day.

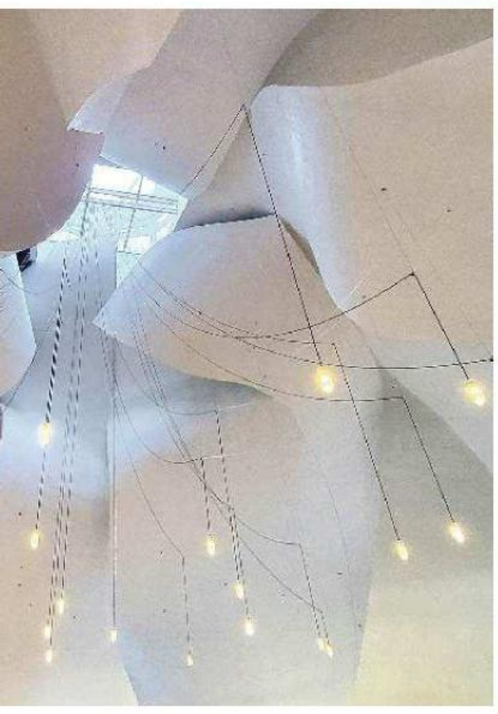
It's Art Deco magic, not to mention a marvelous display of marble varieties, 17 in all. Just take it from Lee McClendon, a barista at the lobby's Aquarela coffee bar and a fairly recent L.A. transplant who enjoys being amid such history and encourages visitors to look up. McClendon directed my attention to the different colors of the window panels and noted: "This time of year, around the 11 or 12 o'clock hour is the best time to see the sun's rays come through."
● *601 W. 5th St., Los Angeles, thecaledison.com*

UNION STATION

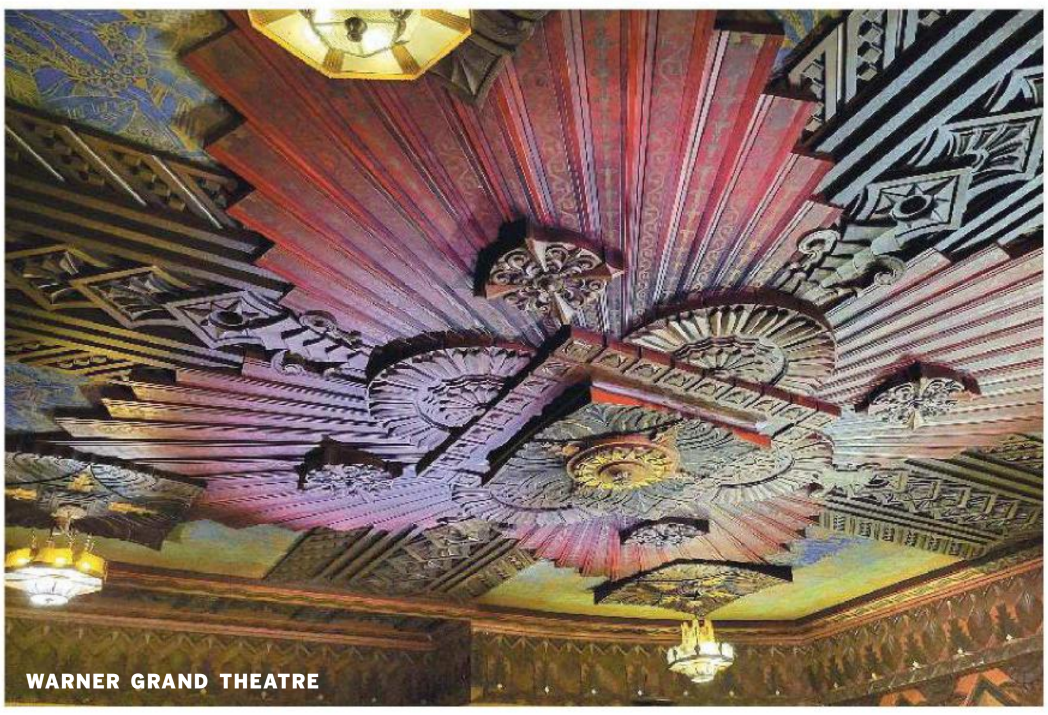
Completed in 1939 and designed by



Panic Studio L.A.



Teena Apeles



WARNER GRAND THEATRE

Teena Apeles

architects John Parkinson and his son Donald, the Mission Moderne-style Union Station wows at every turn, especially overhead. A floral-patterned coffered ceiling greets you in the vestibule through the doors of the main Alameda Street entrance. To the left of the information booth is the original ticket concourse, with an open truss (or exposed-beam) ceiling and colorful panels featuring a flower in each. The Times' Deborah Vankin reported in 2021 on the work involved to restore the station's ceilings, which include California wildflowers painted by Herman Sachs.

Continue to the waiting room (and the best people-watching downtown), where the vestibule ceiling's stenciled pattern continues. EverGreene Architectural Arts (which also conserved the Vision Theatre's ceiling mural) restored the acoustic ceiling tiles to their original splendor and has a great time-lapse video of their stenciling.

Proceed through the passageway, dodging hectic travelers, until you reach the station's east entrance. Admire the Art Deco dome skylight of etched, multihued stained glass above Richard Wyatt's "City of Dreams" portrait mural. You've probably caught the artwork on display throughout the station, but there's a hand-painted, ceramic-tiled wonder installed in 1995 you may have missed: Underneath the bus plaza's pedestrian bridge is "La Sombra del Arroyo," or "Shadow of the Stream," depicting a tree canopy and native wildlife by prominent local muralists East Los Angeles Streetscapers' Wayne Alaniz Healy and David Rivas Botello with Alejandro de la Loza.

● *800 N. Alameda St., Los Angeles, unionstationla.com*

TIKI-TI

One of the smallest but most iconic bars in the city, Tiki-Ti is a maximalist explosion of color and themed decor, *if* you can get in. (Patrons often have to queue outside.) Opened by bartender Ray Buhen in 1961 and now run by his son Mike Buhen Sr., the Los Feliz bar has a ceiling you really can't miss: It's low, multilayered and in flux. New fixtures are added at will; in recent years, they've included some 17 colorful bamboo lamps of various sizes by artisan Anders Anderson of Oceanic Designs, a regular.

Those looking for remnants from the past — while sipping one of Tiki-Ti's very strong tropical cocktails — will be charmed by the dizzying (in a good way) array of adornments among the tikis. There are colorful leis, vintage license plates and hundreds of cards signed and dated by regulars, dating back to the bar's opening. At the far end behind the bar, above an original mini-waterfall composed of lava rocks (with actual water cascading down), there's a decorated circular tapa cloth Ray made that's meant to represent the sun.

Mike recalls helping his father create the ceiling. "We cut the bamboo, the cork, the tapa cloth and nipa [to apply to] the ceiling — that was a pain in the ass and a lot of work," he says, laughing. "If you look at the bar now, the bamboo has got a really nice color. It's brown, but that's not the original color, because brand-new [bamboo] is white. That's 60 years of smoke." Take in the festive ambience with the Bayanihan ("community" or "friendship"), Tiki-Ti's take on the piña colada that honors the Buhen family's Filipino ancestry.

● *4427 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 669-9381, tiki-ti.com*

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NORTHRIDGE

I wouldn't have known about this 1962 beauty if I hadn't seen the USC Pacific Asia Museum exhibition "After Modernism: Through the Lens of Wayne Thom." Thom, now retired, was a celebrated architectural photographer tapped often by L.A. architect A. Quincy Jones (responsible for Cal State Dominguez Hills and several USC buildings) to capture projects by his firm, Jones & Emmons. When I saw Thom's entrancing black-and-white shot taken directly below the Congregational Church's square skylight, which softly illuminated the pyramid roof's complex structure, I wanted to see the spot in person. Jones' Modernist take on a place of worship is less opulent in material than most churches, but it's no less inspiring. Below the 54-foot-high skylight, the church's exposed wood frame draws your eyes up and down, with beams meeting at different points inside and jutting outside the building at different angles.

A tearsheet from the church archives has the architect's master site plan summary along with three hand-drawn renderings. "The dominant visible center of this plan will be the House of Worship with its sculptured steeple reaching high — symbolic of our personal striving for the highest," it reads. A congregant of 30-plus years adds of the skylight: "I like to think our prayers reach Jesus through the opening." To me, the thoughtfully placed, cylindrical pendant lights descending from the structure resemble large, floating votive candles. It's really a glorious sight.

TIKI-TI

Teena Apeles

● *9659 N. Balboa Blvd., Northridge, (818) 349-2400, northridgeucc.org*

THE WESTIN BONAVENTURE HOTEL AND SUITES

When the Bonaventure Hotel opened in 1976, my immigrant parents were among the Angelenos who just had to see the mirrored, multicylindered, futuristic masterpiece — then take every visiting Filipino relative to it for many, many years. There was nothing like it on their archipelago.

My friend Anne and I, kids of the 1970s, recently brought our kids of the 2010s for the first time. When they saw the Bonaventure from the corner (versus from the car as part of the downtown skyline), they started running for the entrance. Once inside, they went bonkers: heads moving in all directions to take it all in — the pods, the pools, the glass elevators, etc. — then eyes up to view the 367-foot, 35-story building's *exterior* from the hotel's *interior*. Minds blown.

I overheard them dreaming up a plot to make enough money to buy the building and live there. What an amazing feat for architect John Portman to design something that would have generations of family members continuing to visit and elicit such reactions. While our girls went exploring, Anne and I sat by one of the reflective pools and watched through the atrium's curved skylight as the elevators went up and down. Small birds chirped from the branches of the bamboo plants within arm's reach of us, and I understood why my parents brought us here again and again.

● *404 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, (213) 624-1000, marriott.com/en-us/hotels/laxbw-the-westin-bonaventure-hotel-and-suites-los-angeles*

HOLLYWOOD / VINE L.A. METRO STATION

When the station opened in 1999, Metro riders were thrilled to access the famous intersection and Hollywood Walk of Fame in a new way. But it was the station's joyous "Hooray for Hollywood" theme celebrating the film capital's history — by beloved local artist Gilbert "Magu" Luján of the Chicano art collective Los Four and architect Adolfo Miralles of Altadena-based Miralles Associates Inc. — that made us linger. "What evolved, in searching for design elements and solutions for this station, was the implication of Hollywood as a dream factory for world culture," Luján and Miralles said in their artist statement. "The ingredients were light and power, fantasy and enchantment, glitz and glitter."

The station is packed with elements that make the subway stop akin to an amusement park attraction: a yellow-brick-road floor, colorful lowrider-backed benches, illuminated palm tree pillars, 200-plus hand-painted wall art tiles (each one unique!), 1930s film projectors and the station's arguable star, a film-reel-covered ceiling. Miralles had already been considering a metal ceiling with holes. Then, on a serendipitous hike, someone told him about the reels being thrown away when they're no longer used, which led to their eventual integration. Purchased for 25 cents each, more than 20,000 recycled film reels were used.

● *6250 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, (213) 922-6000, metro.net*

WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL

The Frank Gehry-designed concert hall stuns inside and out — and aurally — with ceilings that were developed for superior acoustics. Acoustician Yasuhisa Toyota played a vital role in their creation, particularly in the concert hall. "The ceiling curves in two directions; it has a spherical shape, which bounces the sound in multiple directions," explains Meaghan Lloyd of Gehry Partners LLP. "The acoustician modeled this in their 3-D program and built a 1:10 model, which they used to test the sound."

The ceiling features panels of curved Douglas fir, a fairly inexpensive hardwood for such a monumental project, and four inches of concrete above them. Gehry actually didn't make the final wood selection, says Lloyd: "He placed eight or so samples of different unmarked woods in the room, along with a cello, for the client group. The Douglas fir looked very close to the wood on the cello. Everyone saw it and picked the Douglas fir without knowing they were choosing this humble material."

Another remarkable ceiling can be found in the ground-floor Founders Room. It's a white sculpted wonder of animated strips and a pendant light installation — a collaboration of Gehry architect Craig Webb and the lighting design firm L'Observatoire International — that instantly draws your eyes to a skylight 50 feet up. "Founders rooms, up to that point, had been typically stuffy environments," says Lloyd. "Frank had a vision of ribbons draping down from the ceiling; the lighting was trying to follow that play."

● *111 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, (323) 850-2000, laphil.com/about/our-venues/about-the-walt-disney-concert-hall*

WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY

Fans of contemporary architecture will appreciate the L-shaped, coffered ceiling of the West Hollywood library, which opened in 2011. It's a stunning, modern take on reading room ceilings of the past. The library was designed by Steve Johnson and Jim Favaro of the Culver City firm Johnson Favaro; they consider our country's public library reading rooms, large and small, as "the foundation of the architectural tradition of the American library system and partly responsible for its success." The ceiling design also pays homage to the work of a gay icon, says Favaro by email: For inspiration, "We collected photographic images of flowers, stems and leaves by Robert Mapplethorpe as well as the floral forms developed in the decorative arts during the Art Nouveau period at the turn of the 20th century."

What's surprising (or maybe not) is how patrons could overlook the third floor's 11,250-square-foot ceiling because their attention is focused on browsing the shelves and reading material. Most first-time visitors initially notice the panoramic view of West Hollywood and the colorful Pacific Design Center buildings through the glass walls, says library manager Matt Gill. As for the ceiling, "We've had visitors who have been coming for years who just one day look up and discover it ... and sometimes their jaws drop."

● *625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, (310) 652-5340, lacountylibrary.org/west-hollywood-library*

QUICK BITES

Wax on

> Wax Paper's Lauren and Peter Lemos are turning out inventive yet homey dishes in Elysian Valley/Frogtown at Lingua Franca, on the bike path overlooking the L.A. River. After roughly six years of planning, Lingua Franca is serving a "New California" take on comfort food:confit steelhead trout with grilled fava beans and lemon dressing; root-beer-braised beef cheeks in a kind of stroganoff; and a grass-fed beef burger with black-garlic sherry brown butter and burnt onion on a house-made bun. A daytime menu, set to launch in the coming months, will offer dishes such as buttermilk waffles; crispy bologna or mushroom breakfast sandwiches; overnight oats with banana purée and whipped mascarpone; and cold fried chicken with jam and honey vinegar. Lauren Lemos, a former bartender, guides the beverage program, which includes West Coast wines with a focus on female vintners, local craft beer and drinks such as a frozen concoction sporting wine, lemons from the garden, guava and Aperol. Kirstin "Kiki" Bliss (Hotel Bel-Air) is the pastry chef. *2990 Allesandro St., Los Angeles, linguafrancaco.com*

NOLA in LB

> A taste of New Orleans just landed in Long Beach with Bar Envie, a cocktail bar with Southern bites. It's the latest project from Geoff and Karna Rau and chef Carlos Jurado of Colombian restaurant Selva. Bar Envie's cocktail list from beverage director Mike Borowski riffs on regional classics with options such as a rhubarb take on a Ramos gin fizz, a julep featuring chartreuse, and a sazerac with chicory-infused whiskey, plus customizable boozy floats. Jurado's menu offers Creole-spiced shrimp and grits, pimento cheese, a muffuletta, a po' boy, spicy frog legs and a fried-bologna sandwich, with weekly specials such as étouffée and jambalaya. *4000 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 342-4255, barenvie.com*

LGBTQ Love

> Honey's at Star Love, an inclusive new bar from a trio of LGBTQ owners, is open in Hollywood, filling the former Girl at the White Horse space with cocktails, nonalcoholic beverages and events such as DJ sets and comedy nights that spotlight queer artists. The indefinite queer-bar residency, from Kate Greenberg (director of operations at Mozza group), designer and events producer Charlotte Gordon and Mo Faulk (Bluedoor, an LGBTQ-friendly wellness center and urgent-care facility), could extend to a more permanent bar. Cocktails may involve ingredients such as peanut-washed whiskey, pimento liqueur and gin infused with butterfly pea flower, and the bar team also can concoct no-ABV drinks with fresh fruit and other inventive ingredients. Honey's footprint includes a small stage area as well as a patio. *1532 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, honeysla.com*

Savory sketches

> After a 2018 closure — and last year's comeback in a new space and under new ownership — burger shack Irv's has opened a second location in the Mid-Wilshire area. The 1,100-square-foot space has housed Pop's Burgers and, more recently, roast beef specialist Top Round. Irv's figurehead and former owner Sonia Hong, beloved by customers for her sketches of guests and their pets on paper plates, is serving the same menu at both locations. *1000 S. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles, irvsburgers.com*

— STEPHANIE BREIJO

SUSANA SANCHEZ Los Angeles Times

MAURY'S BAGELS: Lemon curd, left, and kippered salmon and veggies.

BETTY HALLOCK Los Angeles Times

EVERYTHING BAGELS EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE

FROM CLASSIC TO EXPERIMENTAL, L.A.'S BEST TO NOSH. DON'T FORGET THE SCHMEAR.

BY BILL ADDISON, STEPHANIE BREIJO, DANIELLE DORSEY, BETTY HALLOCK, JENN HARRIS AND LUCAS KWAN PETERSON

JUST AS IN THE Oscar-nominated film from directors Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, bagels seem to be everywhere all at once lately. This might not be news in New York, where bagels first made their stateside appearance in the late 19th century, but here in L.A., where transplants never fail to criticize us for taking creative liberties with their signature foods (looking at you, New York-style pizza), one can't help noticing a new crop of bagel bakers across the city. ¶ And while you're bound to find East Coast-style boiled bagels and even Montreal-inspired wood-fired options, you'll also run into hybrids that borrow from these techniques and more, topped with Santa Barbara-sourced smoked salmon or seasonal farmers market fruit and vegetables. You'll even meet bagel makers bold enough to claim their style as West Coast, one that's still being defined as the scene boils over. Here's an assortment of L.A. bagel shops, from longtime classics to brand-new entrants, that we can't get enough of.

BAGEL + SLICE

It's only logical that a half bagel shop, half pizzeria would make one of L.A.'s top spins on a pizza bagel, but Bagel + Slice nails each independently too. Blaze Pizza co-founder Brad Kent launched this concept in 2022 using a blend of sunflower and whole-grain low-gluten buckwheat flours. The everything bagel is the most popular, but the most inspired is the option flecked with dried rosemary and za'atar; they're enjoyed a la carte, with cream cheese or as part of a bagel sandwich in options such as chicken cutlet with Oaxacan cheese or the quintessential pick: the open-faced Goldilox, which piles scallion cream cheese with lox, dill, capers, red onion and a drizzle of vibrant lemon-infused olive oil. There are New York-style slices and whole pizzas too, but the bialy-like pizzettes are one of Kent's most distinctive offerings. — *S.B.*

● *4751 York Blvd., Los Angeles, bagelandslice.com*

BELLE'S BAGELS

The hand-rolled-bagel operation from Nick Schreiber and J.D. Rocchio has lived many lives over the last decade-plus: A home outfit grew into a pop-up out of La Perla, then moved down York Boulevard to a takeout window in the former music venue the Hi Hat. Soon, it'll be evolving into its very own restaurant and deli along York, set to open later this year. From a small table outside that restaurant's front door is where you can currently find bagels to go, alongside schmears made with California dairy, onion-laden latkes and whole loaves of olive oil challah. The stars remain the bagels, chewy with just the right amount of bite from the golden outer shell, in classic flavors as well as the more unusual (and fan-favorite) cacio e pepe variety. The tomato jam, perfectly toeing the line between sweet and spicy, is a must-add on any breakfast sandwich. — *S.B.*

● *5022 York Blvd., Los Angeles, bellesbagels.com*

COURAGE BAGELS

No current discussion of L.A.'s bagel scene can ignore Courage Bagels. The game-changing business began nearly six years ago, when Arielle Skye started selling her compact, smoky-crisp, Montreal-inspired bagels from the back of a bicycle. In October 2020, she and her now-husband, Chris Moss, moved into the Virgil Village space previously occupied by Super Pan bakery. The lines have been legendary since; these are truly some of the best bagels in the U.S. My standard order is the Winter in Sardinia — a sandwich layered with sardines, herbs, lemon and a fistful of capers — and also half of a purposely burnt bagel pounded with everything seasoning and draped with smoked salmon. However, no matter what you order or when you show up, there will be a line, and it will be worth the wait. — *B.A.*

● *777 N. Virgil Ave., Los Angeles, couragebagels.com*

GJUSTA

The bagels at Gjusta are textbook good: crunchy shells with soft, chewy middles. The place is more conservative than most when it comes to the amount of seasoning on the everything bagel, with more of a smattering of dried onion and sesame seeds that allows you to really taste the onion. As good as the bagel is on its own, it's even better with a schmear of the labneh spread, a couple of slices of pastrami lox and pickled onions. — *J.H.*

● *320 Sunset Ave., Venice, (310) 314-0320, gjusta.com*

LAYLA BAGELS

Opened at the top of the year on a cozy stretch of Ocean Park Boulevard next to Ghisallo, Layla Bagels comes from brothers Harry and David Wexner and partner and general manager Kai Johnson, with Sammi Tarantino serving as head chef and Sergio España as head baker. Sourdough bagels are hand-rolled, boiled and baked fresh each morning, available plain or sprinkled with poppy seeds, sesame seeds or everything seasoning. The nearby Santa Monica farmers market lends blood orange, grapefruit and other seasonal fruit to such items as the Pre-Jam bagel slathered with cream cheese and drizzled with honey. There's also a smoked salmon bagel sandwich and one with scrambled eggs, aged cheddar and chermoula chile oil, plus a handful of vegan options. The bagel shop also just introduced sourdough challah bread on Fridays. — *D.D.*

● *laylabagels.com*

MAURY'S BAGELS

On sunny weekend mornings, the crowd — flocking with kids and dogs in tow from the surrounding Silver Lake neighborhood — spills onto the sidewalk. Just as popular as Jason Maury Kaplan's everything bagels are the ones dusted with za'atar. His are chewy, dense East Coast-style bagels to eat on their own or as the foundation for schmears, smoked fish and fish salads, served sandwich-style or open-faced. Lemon curd bagels are a seasonal specialty, and they're a pretty perfect brunch food. A bagel of your choice is slathered with blueberry cream cheese, topped with lemon curd and sprinkled with toasted pistachios. — *B.H.*

● *2829 Bellevue Ave., Los Angeles, (323) 380-9380, maurysbagels.com*

SAINT-RAF BAGELS

Of the L.A. bagels I've tried recently, I was most impressed with the ones at Saint-Raf Bagels, a business inside the 1802 Roasters coffee shop in Cypress Park — the bagel-and-coffee matryoshka doll that's exactly what we all need in life. The bagels are tender and chewy, satisfying to pull apart and with that slight alkaline shine characteristic of so many good ones. You can't go wrong with the classic smoked salmon and cream cheese combo, or a whitefish salad that goes particularly nicely with a poppyseed bagel that's so densely covered in seeds, you can barely see the bread beneath. My favorite might be the salt and pepper bagel, however, which has a sharpness reminiscent of a plate of cacio e pepe at a good Roman restaurant. — *L.K.P.*

● *1206 Cypress Ave., Los Angeles, 1802roasters.com/saintraf*

TOMORROW BAGEL

These hand-shaped bagels are worth setting a Sunday alarm clock for. Helmed by Alex Crow and baker Saranee Muengfoo, Tomorrow Bagel popped up at coffee shops like Obet & Del's and Alibi before moving into its current stall at the Hollywood Farmers Market every Sunday. The bagels are boiled and baked, but what makes them stand out is a barley malt syrup that lends a golden hue and a toasted and nutty flavor. Available with za'atar and sea salt, poppyseeds, sesame seeds, everything seasoning or onion, the bagels are so thoroughly coated that hardly any of the dough is visible until you take that initial bite. Stock up on bagels to take home or order a bagel sandwich with such toppings as lox, tomato, red onions, dill, capers and extra virgin olive oil, or scrambled eggs, cheese, bacon and Thai chili honey, with rotating seasonal options. — *D.D.*

● *1600 Ivar Ave., Los Angeles, @tomorrow_bagel*

YEASTIE BOYS

Some of L.A.'s favorite bagels can be found at Yeastie Boys' roving food trucks, where founder Evan Fox shares his take on the New York-style bagel. Yeastie's hand-rolled bagels are designed to be plump, doughy and extremely squishable to stand up to the onslaught of schmear and other items they manage to cram between the halves. These aren't just bagels, they're vehicles for folds of lox, slabs of hash browns, pit-smoked pastrami, jalapeño cheddar schmear, pucks of turkey sausage, yolk-oozing fried eggs and other savory options. The $5 order of mini bagels allows for multiple schmears on two sized-down bagels, but for those looking to level up, the Reubenstein, one of the trucks' most popular items by far, reimagines the classic Reuben on a heaped everything bagel that's been flipped upside down for maximum grillage; it's a wholly satisfying meal in ode to the iconic sandwich by Reuben Kulakofsky — a distant relative of Fox's. — *S.B.*

● *8420 Melrose Place, Los Angeles, yeastieboysbagels.com*

BAGEL + SLICE: Salmon and chive cream cheese.

BELLE'S BAGELS: The cacio e pepe bagel.

COURAGE BAGELS: Winter in Sardinia sandwich.

YEASTIE BOYS: The Reubenstein sandwich.

From top: STEPHANIE BREIJO Los Angeles Times; MARIAH TAUGER Los Angeles Times; SHELBY MOORE For The Times; STEPHANIE BREIJO Los Angeles Times

BAGEL BOUNTY: Scan this QR code for more terrific SoCal bagel spots, new and old.

WHERE TO INDULGE IN CAVIAR, FOR $12 AND UP

THE HIGH-END SNACK IS TAKING L.A.'S DINING SCENE BY STORM, IN NEW AND ACCESSIBLE WAYS

BY BILL ADDISON, STEPHANIE BREIJO, CINDY CARCAMO AND DANIELLE DORSEY

JIM SULLIVAN

ASTERID: Tamal with caviar.

PABLO ENRIQUEZ Caviar Kaspia L.A.

CAVIAR KASPIA: Grilled cheese.

CINDY CARCAMO Los Angeles Times

PETROSSIAN: Mille-feuille.

GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

GRANDMASTER RECORDERS: Chef Blake Shailes delivers a "bump" of Petrossian caviar.

CAVIAR IS EVERYWHERE, not just gracing high-end restaurant menus as in days past but offered in fun and approachable formats that have drawn the attention of a new crowd of diners. ¶ And let's set the record straight: Caviar isn't just fish eggs. That's roe, a delicacy that can be sourced from any type of fish. Caviar refers to unfertilized eggs harvested from the sturgeon family of fish — beluga, kaluga, ossetra, sevruga and Siberian sturgeon are some of the most prized species. The highest grades of caviar lend a feeling of immersion into the sea — the description of salty falls frustratingly short. ¶ Historically, caviar was sourced from the Caspian Sea bordering Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. Caviar was so beloved by the elite that overfishing led to the endangerment of many sturgeon species and an eventual ban on wild-caught caviar. But advances in aquaculture mean that modern diners don't have to miss out.

"Producers started farming white sturgeon around the 1970s, which is the most commonly harvested of the sturgeon family because it's the fastest to grow," said Blake Shailes, executive chef at Grandmaster Recorders in Hollywood. "More and more fish farms [have been] built since the '70s, plus other advances like breeding programs. Inflation has gone up so the price is largely the same, it's just more accessible."

Increased availability has given chefs license to experiment with caviar. Founded by Russian immigrant Arcady Fixon in Paris in 1927, Caviar Kaspia quietly opened a second location on buzzy Melrose Place last fall. New, American-inspired dishes are exclusive to the L.A. location, including a grilled-cheese sandwich that's smothered with a layer of the inky eggs.

Caviar bumps are just one way the delicacy is being streamlined, with a spoonful deposited on and eaten from the back of the hand. "The warmth from your hand helps the caviar open up in flavor," Grandmaster Recorders' Shailes said. The restaurant has an exclusive partnership with Petrossian, a century-old, Paris-founded caviar chain with a location in West Hollywood, and offers "bumps" of its Royal Ossetra for just $12 apiece — in contrast, full caviar service runs $160 for 30 grams of the same grade.

Here, we share some new favorite restaurants that are putting exciting spins on the classic indulgence, as well as a few with traditional service presented in settings that stand out. From celebrity-favorite Beverly Hills wine bars to Hollywood rooftops, sushi dens, modern Thai restaurants and East Coast-style seafood houses, here's where to treat yourself to caviar. You deserve it.

ANAJAK THAI

Fried chicken with a side of caviar is a blatant culinary flex — and yet, in the hands of Justin Pichetrungsi, the coupling transcends to genius. The bird needs no embellishment, to be clear: Battered in rice flour and scattered with fried shallots, the recipe is an adaptation of a fried chicken style from Nakhon Si Thammarat, a city in southern Thailand where Pichetrungsi's mother, Rattikorn, has family. But dolloping on big, buttery beads of kaluga adds satisfying, salty harmonics and a soft pop against the sheath of crunch. The fried chicken is a mainstay on the daily menu and also appears most weeks as part of the restaurant's famed Thai Taco Tuesdays. And what pairs better with fried chicken or caviar than Champagne? Anajak has one of L.A.'s most compelling wine lists, including two dozen sparkling options from France and beyond. — *B.A.*

● *14704 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, (818) 501-4201, anajakthai.com*

ASTERID

This Ray Garcia restaurant next to Walt Disney Concert Hall is the chef's highly anticipated return to his hometown, with a far-reaching menu that references L.A.'s winding culinary pathways. While the entire menu is well worth exploring, the abbreviated bar menu offers a selection of indulgent snacks, like a honeynut squash tamal ($45) topped with crema and a generous heaping of schrenckii caviar. It's one of the more distinctive presentations you'll find, with the briny eggs adding a pleasant saltiness that contrasts with the richness of the squash and a crumble of nuts providing a satisfying crunch. — *D.D.*

● *141 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, (213) 972-3535, asteridla.com*

BROAD STREET OYSTER CO.

Few restaurants play on the concept of high-low balance better than Broad Street Oyster Co., a modernized take on a classic seafood shack where Budweiser chills in the fridges next to custom-labeled natural wines. There are hand-breaded calamari steaks, fried oysters, live sea urchins served in their spiky purple shells and massive stone crab claws on ice, but the options for caviar service truly encapsulate that high-low line that founder Christopher Tompkins likes to walk. Care to spruce up your lobster roll? For only $15 more at every Broad Street outpost — be it in Malibu, Grand Central Market, Santa Barbara or on Sundays at Smorgasburg DTLA — one can add three mounds of California sturgeon caviar from Regiis Ova, a company helmed by French Laundry chef Thomas Keller and former Sterling Caviar CEO Shaoching Bishop. (Not to be outshone by the signature lobster roll, the tuna tartare and the uni spaghetti also offer the caviar upgrade at the full restaurants.) There's also Broad Street's caviar service: Available as a 15-gram "snack" ($40), a 50-gram "feast" ($105) or a 125-gram "party" ($235), this option pairs that same caviar with thick-cut potato chips, crème fraîche and chives for a spruced-up take on chips and dip. — *S.B.*

● *23359 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu, (424) 644-0131, broadstreetoyster .com*

STEPHANIE BREIJO Los Angeles Times

ANAJAK THAI: Southern Thai-style fried chicken topped with mounds of kaluga caviar.

STEPHANIE BREIJO Los Angeles Times

BROAD STREET OYSTER CO.: Caviar bumps are an option on a buttered warm lobster roll.

STEPHANIE BREIJO Los Angeles Times

BROTHERS SUSHI: Bluefin tuna with black caviar, miso paste, seaweed and edible gold stars.

BROTHERS SUSHI

There's something almost otherworldly about the way Mark Okuda augments the flavors of his fresh and dry-aged sushi with caviar. The owner of Brothers Sushi primarily uses Astrea schrenckii (though occasionally royal kaluga) caviar to add extra creaminess to thick cuts of salmon belly, a light salinity to his chawanmushi and pops of texture and brine to gloriously fatty toro. The bluefin tuna caviar sashimi ($52), found in Woodland Hills as well as the newer Santa Monica location, tops weeklong dry-aged tuna with a mountain of caviar and edible gold stars, all of which mingle with miso paste and seaweed over micro shiso for a dish so elegant and complex it's almost guaranteed to elicit gasps from your table. The six-oyster plate of Seattle Kumamotos ($45) features two topped with caviar for a mellow taste of the sea, while the Ora King sampler ($36) juxtaposes caviar-topped salmon belly with other fresh and dry-aged cuts. Keep an eye out for seasonal specials — such as live whole Hokkaido hairy crab with 30 grams of Astrea caviar — or opt for the omakase ($200), with a caviar-topped chawanmushi course so comforting it's almost transcendent. — *S.B.*

● *21418 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills, (818) 456-4509, thebrothers sushi.com*

CAVIAR KASPIA

A roasted spud splotched with a heap of caviar sounds like a very American contrivance. But a dairy-rich, twice-baked version of the dish has been a specialty of Caviar Kaspia in Paris for decades. Russian expat Arcady Fixon opened the restaurant in 1927 after fleeing his homeland during the Bolshevik Revolution. In recent years, Caviar Kaspia has become a hangout for models and magazine editors; fashion industry investor Sam Ben-Avraham became a fan and decided L.A. needed an outpost. He and Rahav Zuta opened its second location in an airy Art Deco space in West Hollywood last fall with two floors and several indoor-outdoor nooks. This is the place for extravagance: Tastings of two or three varieties of white sturgeon, oscietra or sevruga range from $240 to $1,170. The potato delivers all its promised luxury, and a grilled cheese overlaid with caviar created especially for Angelenos hits crisp, oozy, salty pleasure points. The restaurant serves wine but just got its full liquor license. One can sense that when vodka is finally available, reservations will be all but impossible. — *B.A.*

● *8475 Melrose Place, Los Angeles, caviarkaspiala .com*

EVEN MORE CAVIAR:
Scan this QR code for more caviar service options.

GRANDMASTER RECORDERS

It's only fitting that the genre-defying restaurant that once served as a recording studio for music icons like Stevie Wonder and David Bowie would take a rock 'n' roll approach to caviar. Executive chef Blake Shailes claims almost every table orders the caviar cannoli ($22), two crispy cylinders spilling with the shiny beads and a cloud of crème fraîche in the center. Grandmaster Recorders offers caviar service with Petrossian royal ossetra ($160 for 30 grams) or royal daurenki ($220 for 50 grams), served with potato scallops that reference the fish-and-chip shops Shailes grew up with in Australia. There's also a take on gnocchi fritto that's rolled out until it's crispy and thin, served with seaweed crackers for an umami punch, in addition to the traditional accompaniments. You'll see caviar bumps offered alongside the alto martini for just $12 each, but don't be afraid to ask if you prefer the bumps without the cocktail. Or order caviar on the rooftop with a view of the Hollywood sign. — *D.D.*

● *1518 N. Cahuenga Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 963-7800, grandmaster recorders.com*

PETROSSIAN AT TIFFANY

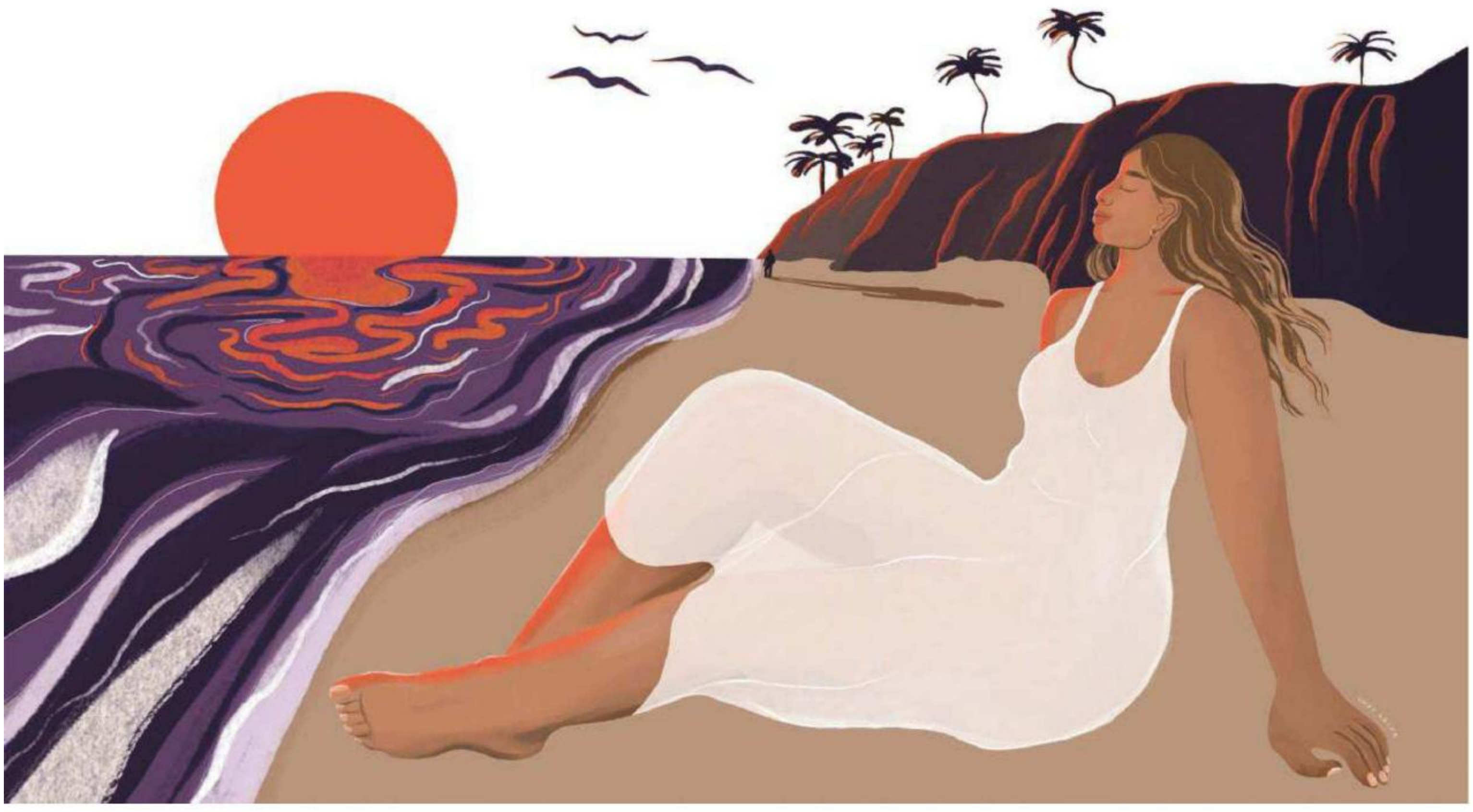
Squint past the bling upon entering Tiffany & Co. and you'll find a caviar oasis hidden in the back. Petrossian is a famous caviar destination, and this one at South Coast Plaza is quite the extravagant experience. The decor — white orchids, sleek floors below and gold mobiles above — gives a nod to the fancy dishes to come. The restaurant serves a traditional preparation with buckwheat blinis and crème fraîche. The Tsar Imperial caviar tasting features baïka, shassetra, ossetra and kaluga — all served on mother-of-pearl spoons. One of my favorite dishes was the finely minced beef tartare with a generous layer of caviar — the selection changes frequently. But the real standout here is the indulgent potato mille-feuille — precariously perched, thinly sliced and buttery potato towers with a dollop of crème fraîche and caviar. The Tiffany Caviartini, the signature drink, made with caviar-infused Guillotine vodka and decorated with an olive plumped with caviar and crème fraîche, was a delight. — *C.C.*

● *3333 Bristol St., Suite 1236, Costa Mesa, petrossianrestaurants .com/southcoastplaza*

SALTIE GIRL

There are many reasons to visit the new, marine-tinged West Hollywood outpost of Saltie Girl, a seafood house with locations in Boston and London. Critic Bill Addison hails the lengthy list of tinned fish, columnist Jenn Harris upholds the warm lobster roll as the best in L.A., and I'd like to direct your attention to the caviar menu, which features Saltie Girl's line of caviar as well as ROE Caviar and several grades of Petrossian. All of the caviar dishes — caviar dip ($32), a caviar and smoked fish sandwich (market price), mezze rigatoni and caviar ($34), 1½ pounds of pan-roasted lobster with caviar and lobster sauce (market price) and a mini caviar roll (a $25 indulgence that's only worth it if you add market-price, butter-poached lobster) are served with Saltie Girl caviar. Traditional service includes fresh crepes, toast points and a flaky pastry coated in everything bagel seasoning with all the accouterments. There's a long list of wines for pairing, including a Saltie Girl rosé, but the Saltie cocktail with your choice of vodka or gin, Castelvetrano olive, pickled onion and caviar is the obvious choice. — *D.D.*

● *8615 W. Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood, saltiegirl.com/los -angeles-menus*



Ludi Leiva For The Times

L.A AFFAIRS

A fine romance

THE OBJECT OF HER AFFECTIONS WASN'T A MAN BUT A CITY

BY LAURA MALIN

I LANDED IN Los Angeles with my 10- and 12-year-old daughters in December 2013. After a couple of very hard years in my hometown of Rio de Janeiro, I decided to take them to California during their summer break from school. I wanted to show them the L.A. enchantment that I remembered from my 20s when I first moved here to become a screenwriter.

Arriving in L.A. again, I realized that the magic was still here, and my daughters and I had an amazing visit. Seeing fake snowflakes at the Grove on Christmas Eve was planted in my girls' memories as one of their sweetest L.A. moments. They enjoyed going to Griffith Observatory, the Getty Villa, Universal Studios Hollywood and Santa Monica.

Then Adriano, an Italian transplant to L.A., happened. We met during a last-minute visit to Simon, my old friend and first agent, who lived near Montana Avenue in Santa Monica. As Simon was showing my daughters and me the neighborhood, he checked his phone and said, "Damn, I have to go back home. I forgot that my friend Adriano is stopping by." We rushed back with my girls tagging along just as happily as always. (They are the best children a single mother could ever have.)

It was a Sunday, and I never thought I would fall in love on a Sunday. After all, my life isn't a movie, but there he was, entering not only Simon's house but also our lives. Adriano was wearing a Lakers cap backwards and he had a smile that immediately broke through the seven seals that had been guarding my heart for almost 10 years — since the father of my girls left us.

A week later, Adriano asked me out on a date. I happened to be visiting the Bay Area then, and he was in Palo Alto at the time. We went to a jazz club in Oakland, where music legend Pharoah Sanders was performing. When he played "My Favorite Things," I leaned my head onto Adriano's shoulder, and he kissed me. It became one of my very favorite things to do.

As Adriano and I got to know each other better, we discovered how much we had in common. It seemed that life had been playing hide-and-seek with us for many years. We realized that we lived in Paris in 1991 and went to the same small bank branch. Also, back in 1999 when I was represented by Simon, Adriano was working at the same talent agency. And we stayed in the same hotel during the 2008 Cannes Film Festival. How was it possible that we had never crossed paths?

Three weeks into dating, friends and strangers thought we were an old couple. We would host dinners together in Adriano's condo in Santa Monica and we'd also take the girls to the California Science Center, movie nights, Little Tokyo, Manhattan Beach — everywhere as if we were a family. It was very surreal, but I also had to find a way to cope with the fact that it was completely real.

I started dreaming of moving to L.A., of working again in Hollywood, and of getting married to Adriano and living in Santa Monica. I even dreamed of having my daughters enrolled at SAMO — Santa Monica's top-tier high school that goes by a nickname.

However, after three months in the U.S., it was time for my girls and me to go back to Brazil. I realized that Adriano and Los Angeles were just meant to be a holiday affair. As I took the 10 freeway one last time during this visit, Lana Del Rey sang my feelings on the radio. It was summertime sadness.

That night, I sat down with my girls and talked about the possibility of moving to L.A., perhaps for a year, for a while or maybe forever. To my surprise, they got excited. I knew my daughters' approval was all I needed to proceed. The rest would fall into place.

I have no idea how I made it all happen in six months: the visa, the work transition, the new school for the girls and being 6,000 miles away from everything they ever knew. However, in September 2014, we landed at Los Angeles International Airport with six suitcases and many dreams.

Adriano and I dated for five years. He proposed to me at Palihouse Santa Monica, where he had rented a room and filled it with red roses and Champagne. He gave me the most perfect ring. When the girls started high school, we moved to a beautiful house in Santa Monica, walking distance from SAMO. It seemed that all my dreams had come true.

Maybe that's why I never saw it coming. I was too happy to spot the red flags. Determined to make it work, no matter what. But one quiet morning, shortly after our engagement anniversary, I found a letter in the mail. I can still remember the sunlight dancing on my bedroom floor as I read it. Adriano had cheated on me — just like that.

It didn't only break my heart, it shattered my soul. I ended things that same day — not only the engagement but our family. He moved back to his condo, and I stayed in the house that was meant to hold dreams.

For a long time, I was afraid to go for a walk and cross paths with him. His ghost was everywhere, and the shadows of us haunted me. When the COVID-19 shutdown came, everything turned indoors, and I turned inward. That was when my heart locked up again, seal by seal.

I never bumped into Adriano again, but sometimes I smelled his scent in the air. Recently I learned he went back to Europe. Well, I could never go back to Brazil. I realized that I'm still madly in love — not with him but with Los Angeles.

> The author is a creative consultant and writer living in Marina del Rey. Her websites are lauramalin.com and malinentertainment.com. Find her on Instagram at @lauramalinauthor and on LinkedIn as laura-malin.

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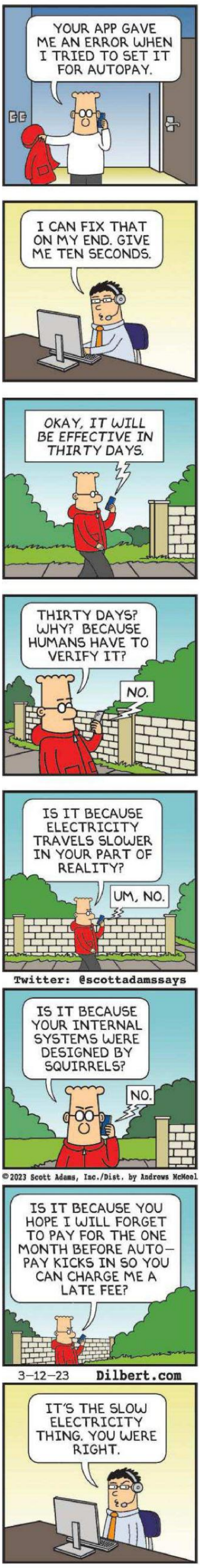
SUNDAY COMICS

Los Angeles Times
MARCH 12, 2023

DILBERT

By Scott Adams


YOUR APP GAVE ME AN ERROR WHEN I TRIED TO SET IT FOR AUTOPAY.
I CAN FIX THAT ON MY END. GIVE ME TEN SECONDS.
OKAY, IT WILL BE EFFECTIVE IN THIRTY DAYS.
THIRTY DAYS? WHY? BECAUSE HUMANS HAVE TO VERIFY IT?
NO.
IS IT BECAUSE ELECTRICITY TRAVELS SLOWER IN YOUR PART OF REALITY?
UM, NO.
IS IT BECAUSE YOUR INTERNAL SYSTEMS WERE DESIGNED BY SQUIRRELS?
NO.
IS IT BECAUSE YOU HOPE I WILL FORGET TO PAY FOR THE ONE MONTH BEFORE AUTO-PAY KICKS IN SO YOU CAN CHARGE ME A LATE FEE?
IT'S THE SLOW ELECTRICITY THING. YOU WERE RIGHT.

Twitter: @scottadamssays

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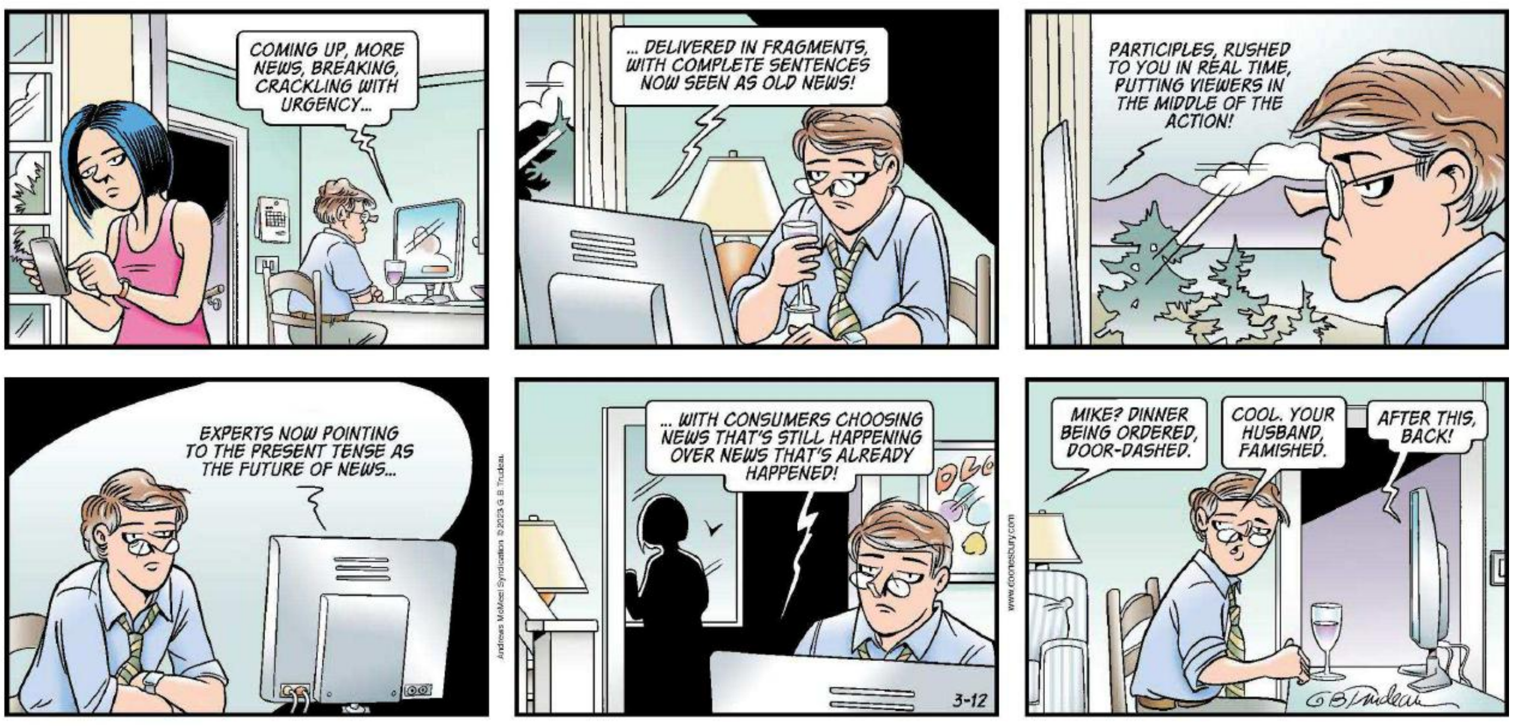
3–12–23 Dilbert.com

DOONESBURY By Garry Trudeau


COMING UP, MORE NEWS, BREAKING, CRACKLING WITH URGENCY...
... DELIVERED IN FRAGMENTS, WITH COMPLETE SENTENCES NOW SEEN AS OLD NEWS!
PARTICIPLES, RUSHED TO YOU IN REAL TIME, PUTTING VIEWERS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ACTION!
EXPERTS NOW POINTING TO THE PRESENT TENSE AS THE FUTURE OF NEWS...
... WITH CONSUMERS CHOOSING NEWS THAT'S STILL HAPPENING OVER NEWS THAT'S ALREADY HAPPENED!
MIKE? DINNER BEING ORDERED, DOOR-DASHED.
COOL. YOUR HUSBAND, FAMISHED.
AFTER THIS, BACK!
3-12
G B Trudeau

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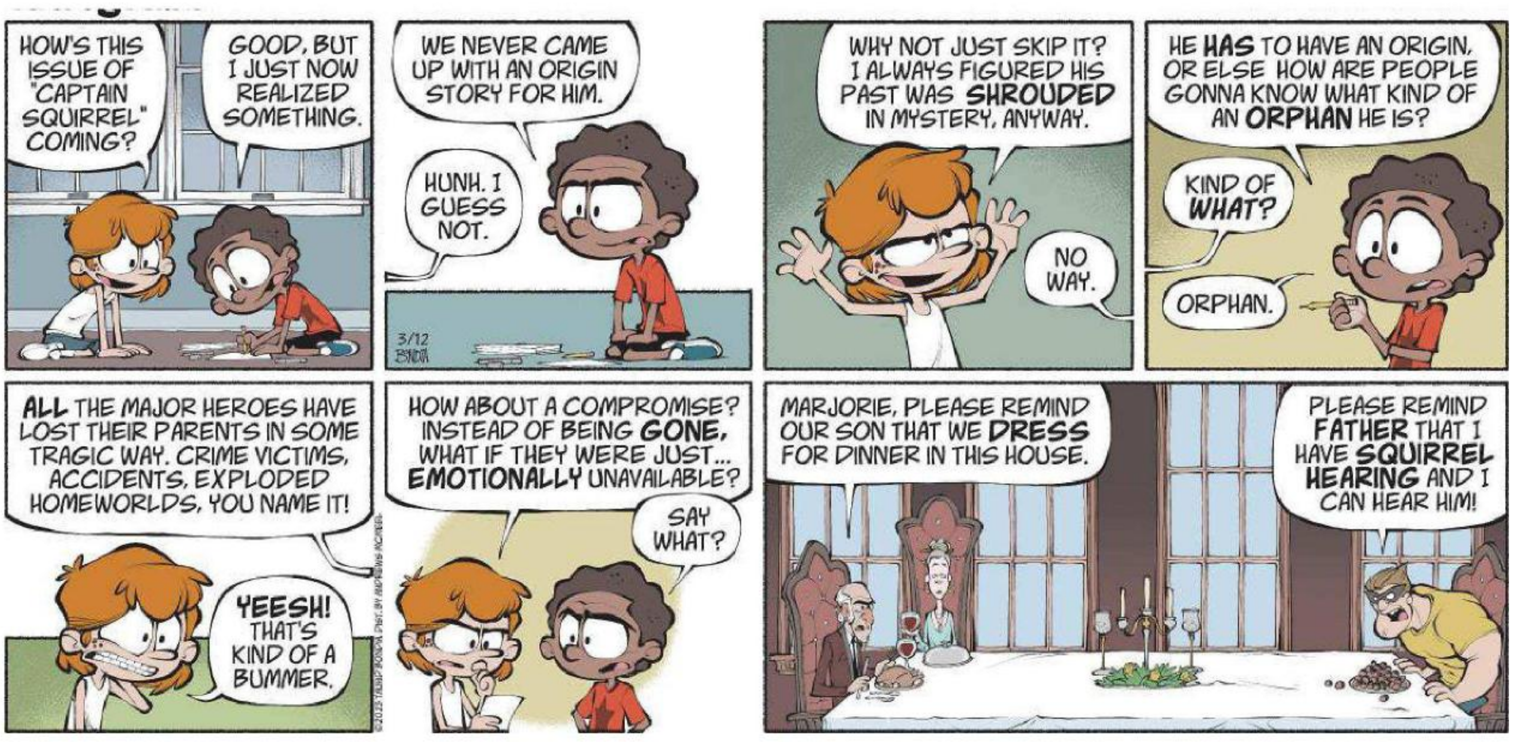
CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia


HOW'S THIS ISSUE OF "CAPTAIN SQUIRREL" COMING?
GOOD, BUT I JUST NOW REALIZED SOMETHING.
WE NEVER CAME UP WITH AN ORIGIN STORY FOR HIM.
HUNH. I GUESS NOT.
3/12 BONDIA
WHY NOT JUST SKIP IT? I ALWAYS FIGURED HIS PAST WAS SHROUDED IN MYSTERY, ANYWAY.
NO WAY.
HE HAS TO HAVE AN ORIGIN, OR ELSE HOW ARE PEOPLE GONNA KNOW WHAT KIND OF AN ORPHAN HE IS?
KIND OF WHAT?
ORPHAN.
ALL THE MAJOR HEROES HAVE LOST THEIR PARENTS IN SOME TRAGIC WAY. CRIME VICTIMS, ACCIDENTS, EXPLODED HOMEWORLDS, YOU NAME IT!
YEESH! THAT'S KIND OF A BUMMER.
HOW ABOUT A COMPROMISE? INSTEAD OF BEING GONE, WHAT IF THEY WERE JUST... EMOTIONALLY UNAVAILABLE?
SAY WHAT?
MARJORIE, PLEASE REMIND OUR SON THAT WE DRESS FOR DINNER IN THIS HOUSE.
PLEASE REMIND FATHER THAT I HAVE SQUIRREL HEARING AND I CAN HEAR HIM!

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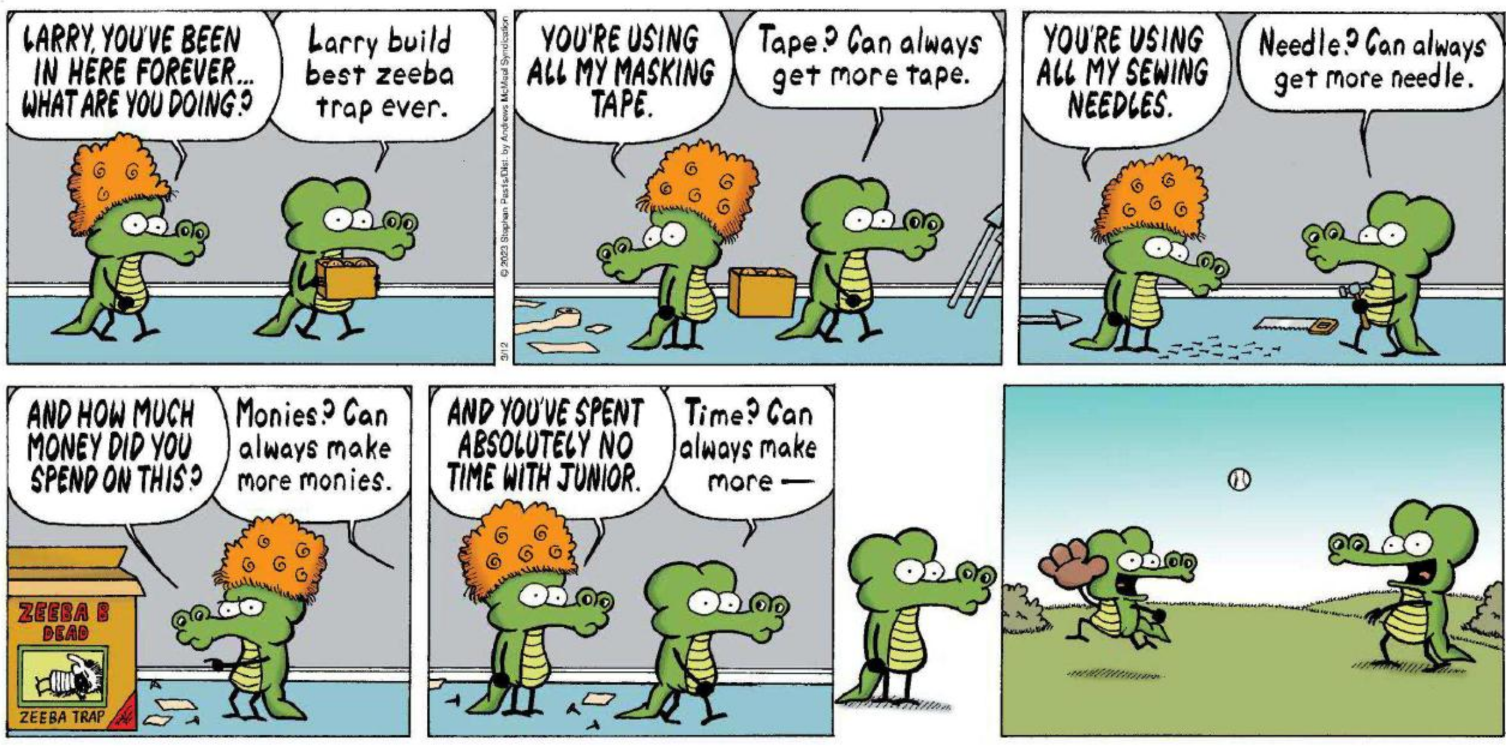
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis


LARRY, YOU'VE BEEN IN HERE FOREVER... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Larry build best zeeba trap ever.
YOU'RE USING ALL MY MASKING TAPE.
Tape? Can always get more tape.
YOU'RE USING ALL MY SEWING NEEDLES.
Needle? Can always get more needle.
AND HOW MUCH MONEY DID YOU SPEND ON THIS?
Monies? Can always make more monies.
ZEEBA B DEAD
ZEEBA TRAP
AND YOU'VE SPENT ABSOLUTELY NO TIME WITH JUNIOR.
Time? Can always make more —
3/12

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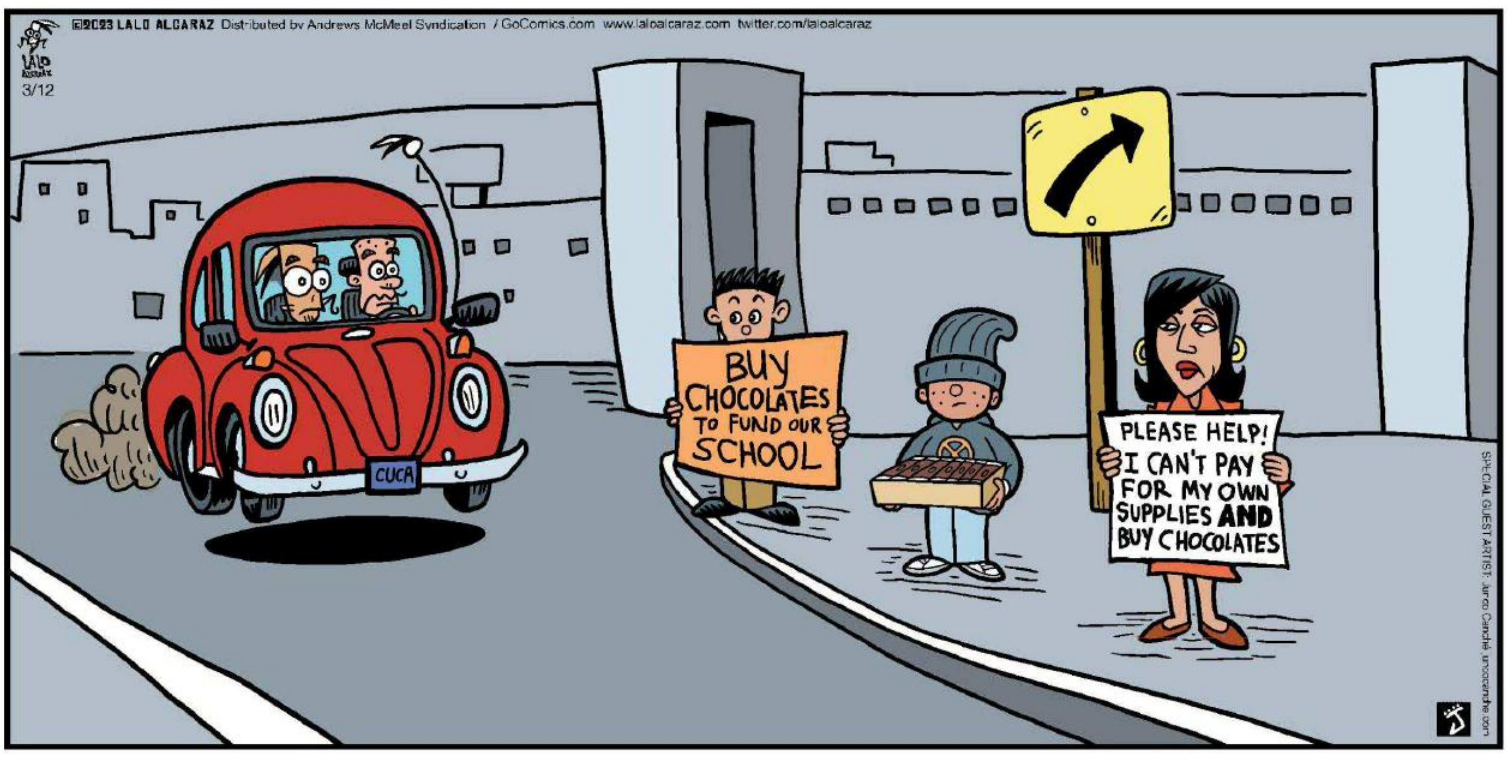
LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz


3/12
CUCA
BUY CHOCOLATES TO FUND OUR SCHOOL
PLEASE HELP! I CAN'T PAY FOR MY OWN SUPPLIES AND BUY CHOCOLATES

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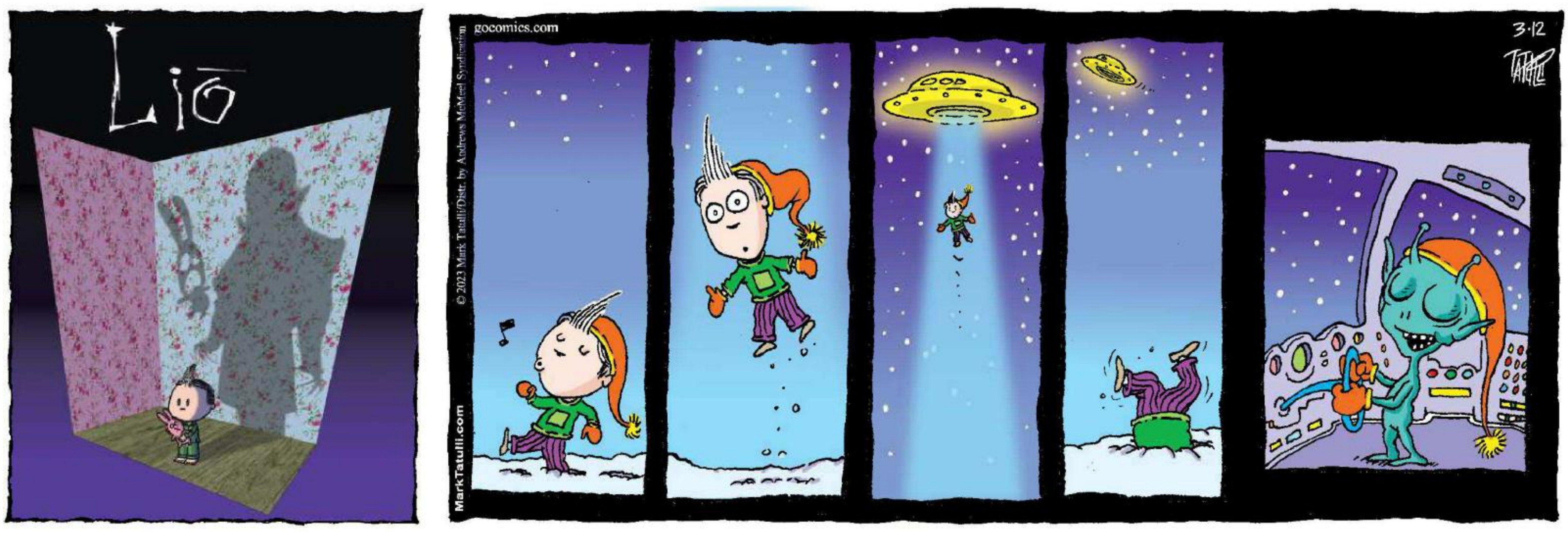
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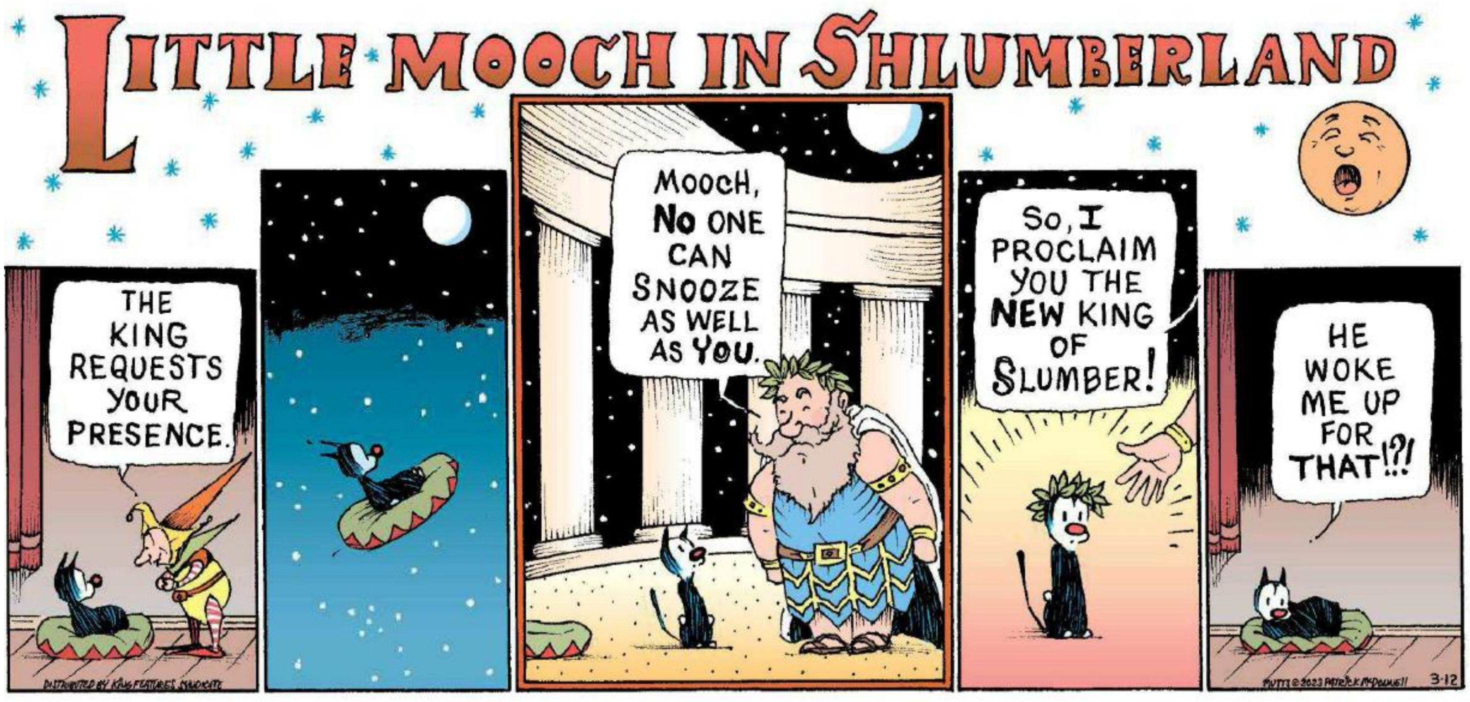
MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell


LITTLE MOOCH IN SHLUMBERLAND
THE KING REQUESTS YOUR PRESENCE.
MOOCH, NO ONE CAN SNOOZE AS WELL AS YOU.
SO, I PROCLAIM YOU THE NEW KING OF SLUMBER!
HE WOKE ME UP FOR THAT!?!
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MUTTS © 2023 PATRICK McDONNELL 3-12

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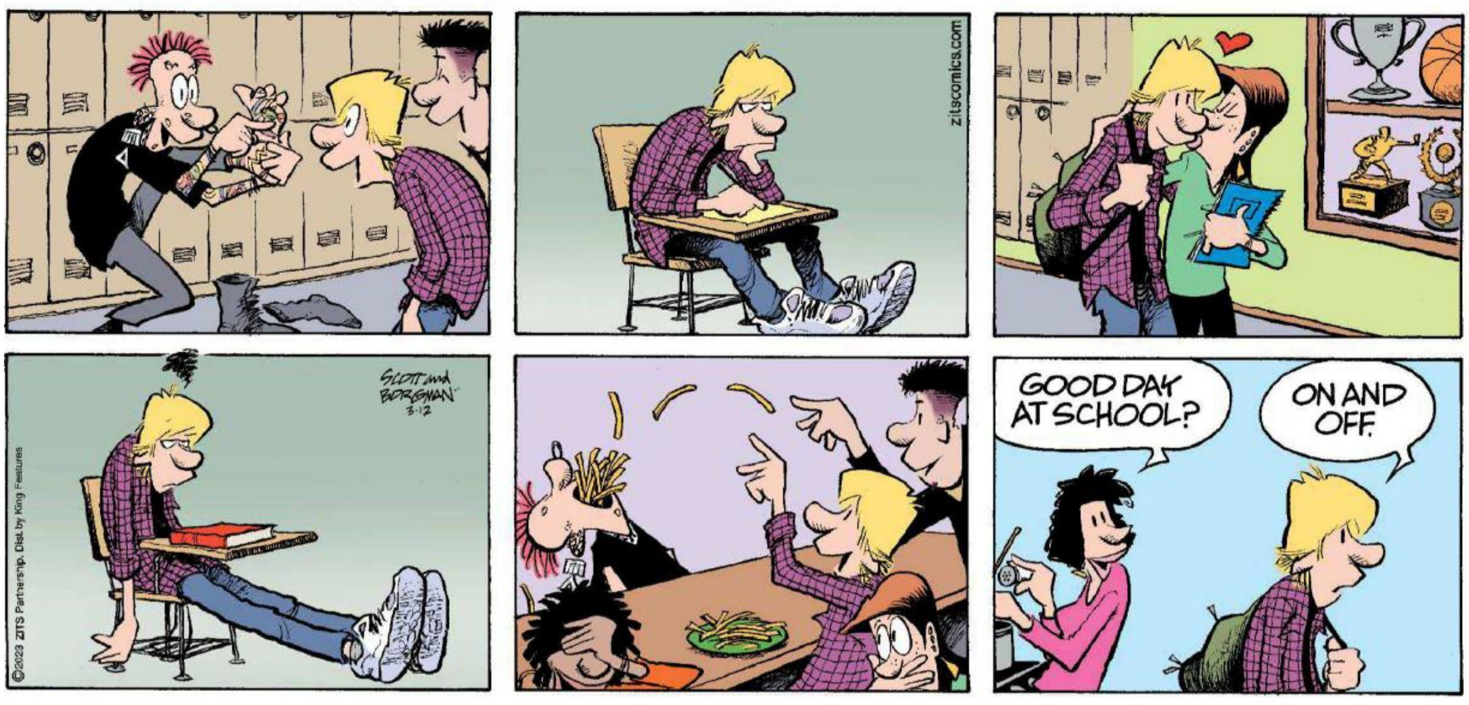
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SCOTT and BORGMAN 3-12
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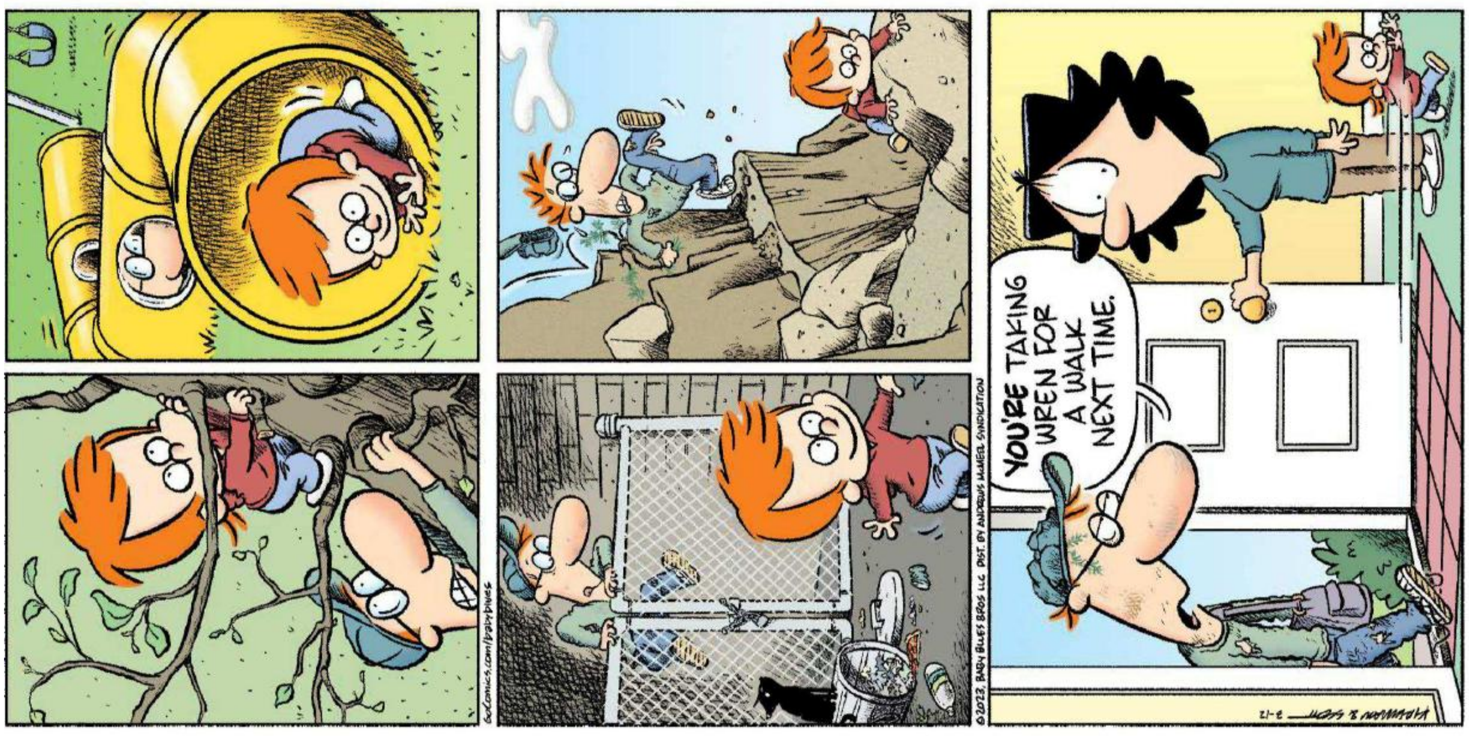
GOOD DAY AT SCHOOL?
ON AND OFF.

BABY BLUES By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott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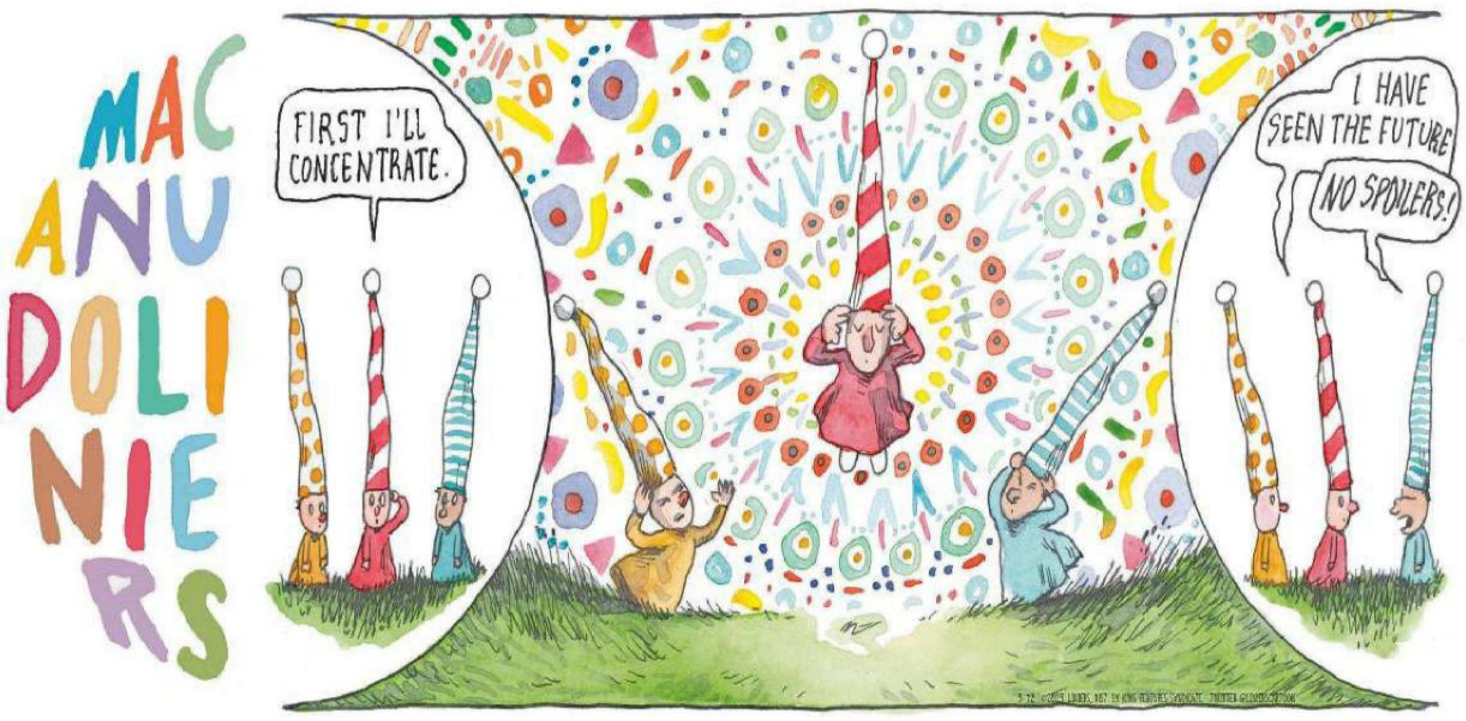
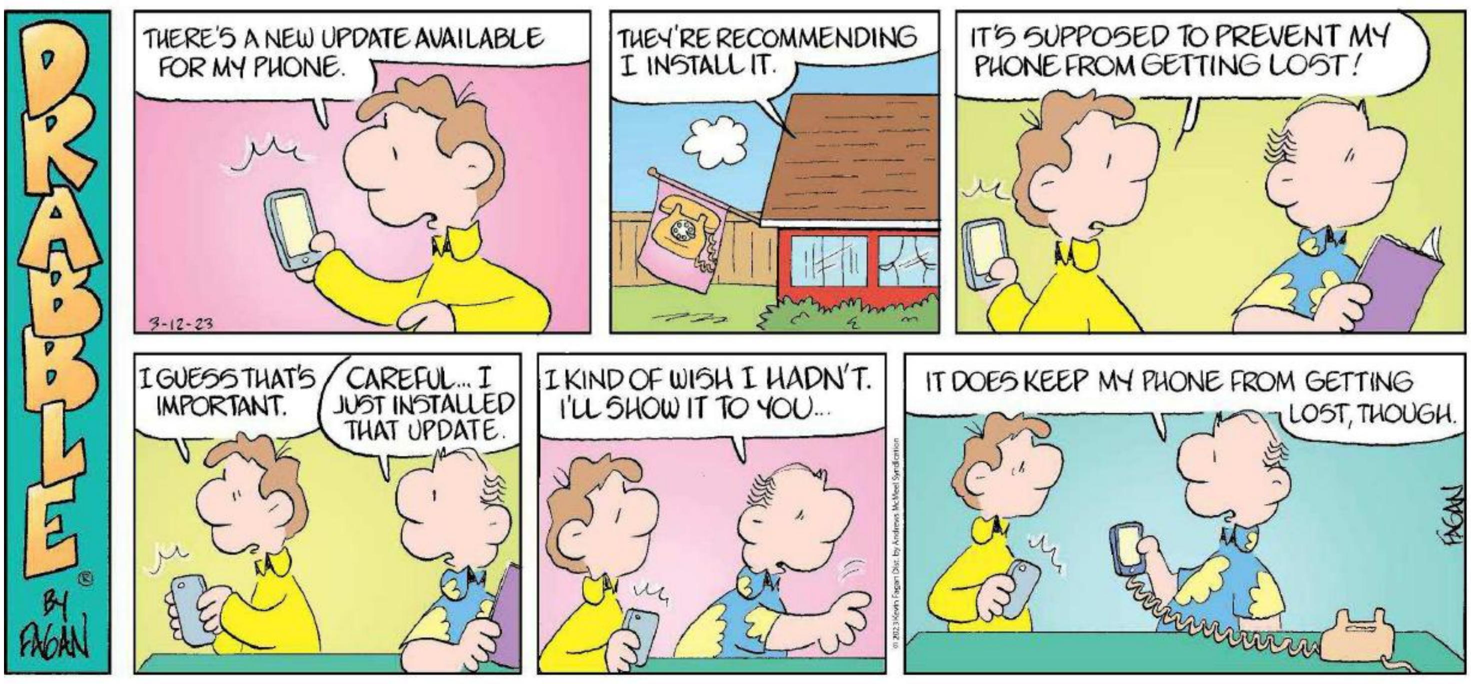
YOU'RE TAKING WREN FOR A WALK NEXT TIME.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT 3-12

MACANUDO By Liniers


MAC ANU DOLI NIE RS
FIRST I'LL CONCENTRATE.
I HAVE SEEN THE FUTURE
NO SPOILERS!


DRABBLE BY FAGAN
THERE'S A NEW UPDATE AVAILABLE FOR MY PHONE.
3-12-23
THEY'RE RECOMMENDING I INSTALL IT.
IT'S SUPPOSED TO PREVENT MY PHONE FROM GETTING LOST!
I GUESS THAT'S IMPORTANT.
CAREFUL... I JUST INSTALLED THAT UPDATE.
I KIND OF WISH I HADN'T. I'LL SHOW IT TO YOU...
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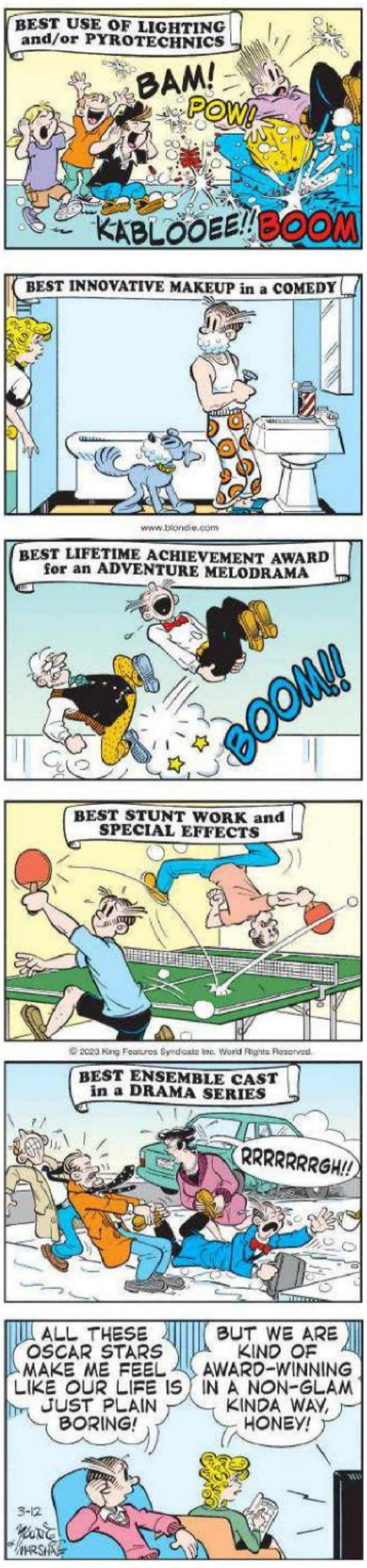
IT DOES KEEP MY PHONE FROM GETTING LOST, THOUGH.
FAGAN

BLONDIE
By Dean Young
& John Marshall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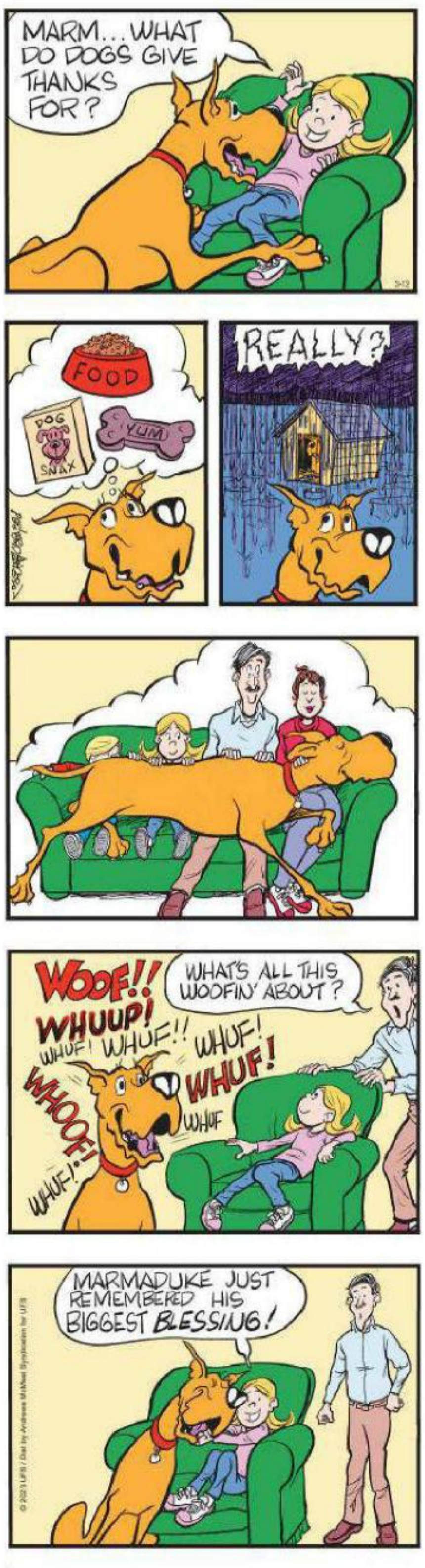
BEST ENSEMBLE CAST in a DRAMA SERIES
RRRRRRRGH!!
ALL THESE OSCAR STARS MAKE ME FEEL LIKE OUR LIFE IS JUST PLAIN BORING!
BUT WE ARE KIND OF AWARD-WINNING IN A NON-GLAM KINDA WAY, HONEY!
3-12
YOUNG MARSHALL

MARMADUKE
By Brad & Paul Anderson


MARM... WHAT DO DOGS GIVE THANKS FOR?
3-12
FOOD
DOG SNAX
YUM
REALLY?
WOOF!!
WHUUP!
WHUF!
WHUF!!
WHUF!
WHUF!
WHUF
WHOOF!
WHUF!
WHAT'S ALL THIS WOOFIN' ABOUT?
MARMADUKE JUST REMEMBERED HIS BIGGEST BLESSING!
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IN MEMORIAM
MY ETERNAL COMPANION
DOROTHY
MAGBY-ANDERSON
24 DECEMBER 2022

HOROSCOPE

Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): You may find yourself repeating unhelpful thoughts. Don't blame yourself or define yourself based on the random things that pop to mind.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Our bodies are made for feeling. At times you wish your feelings were less acute, but to feel nothing would be terrible. Embrace emotion without worrying if it's rotten or weak or proud.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): You matter whether you're working or not, owning things or not, serving people or not. Pause to recognize your inherent worth.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): The ocean has huge waves and sharks, and yet people put themselves in it for pleasure every day. You'd put love in the same category, and yet you'll be somewhat fearless in this regard.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You've been willing to go out of your way to make a situation work. While you haven't exhausted all the options in the world, you've reached a point where it no longer makes sense to keep at it.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Too much ambition can distort your thoughts and limit awareness. To keep ambition in check, calm your mind.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): To reflect on what you've enjoyed is a form of gratitude. It's much easier to be thankful for the things that bring you pleasure.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): There is a significant character who has yet to show up on the stage of your life, so don't be afraid to make room for that entrance.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's becoming clear to you that the control you thought you had over a situation was an illusion.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You have a way of calming people's irrational fears and redirecting their energy to constructive activities.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You feel most comfortable when things are going as expected, but you feel most alive when they are not.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): People make contests out of things that are not inherently competitive. When this occurs today, just remember that with some games, the best option is not to play.

Today's birthday (March 12): Welcome to your year of nurturing in which you contribute to the growth and health of many things including relationships, an organization and yourself. This is a give-and-take — sometimes you're giving care and other times you're lucking into support. At least a dozen times this year you will be filled with awe at the unexpected provisions that drop into your world and perfectly fit your needs. Virgo and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers: 2, 19, 13, 17 and 11.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

"Excuses, Excuses!"

Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis

By Robin Stears

ACROSS

1 Jorts fabric
6 North Africa's — Mountains
11 Cranberry sites
15 TV ads for good causes
19 One who may live by the Strait of Hormuz
20 Go
21 Old Testament twin
22 Actress Wilson of "His Dark Materials"
23 "I always wanted to be a ballerina, but I ... "
27 Specimen for a volcanologist
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29 Long Beach's location, informally
30 "I —": Election Day sticker
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34 "I always wanted to be a baker, but I ... "
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42 Northeastern octet
43 Show clearly
46 Small tastes
48 Vega, e.g.
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53 "I always wanted to be a Gregorian monk, but I ... "
57 Undefeated boxer Laila
58 Means of access
59 Goatee spot
60 Key of Beethoven's "Eroica"
62 Soy-based frozen dessert brand
65 Think of, as a solution
67 "— Place": 1990s TV drama
69 Classic Windows catchphrase
70 Bygone Dodge subcompact
71 Messy scuffle
72 Customizable Wii Sports avatar
73 "I always wanted to be a perfumer, but I ... "
81 French infinitive
83 Give more than a darn?
84 Midday
85 On the clock
86 Setting for many Stephen King novels
88 After the whistle
90 Wallpaper hanger's calculation
91 "I always wanted to be a gardener, but I ... "
98 Sugar shack surrounders
99 Actress Mireille
100 MLB stat
101 Massive old computer
102 Amazon crime series based on Michael Connelly novels
104 Fanny pack's spot
106 Needle a bit
109 "I always wanted to be a wedding officiant, but I ... "
113 Not aweather
114 Canine pal of Nermal and Garfield
115 British elevators
116 Pie feature
117 Young 67-Down
118 Batik artist
119 Sherwin-Williams product
120 Toast opener

DOWN

1 "Say So" singer — Cat
2 Some Down Under sprinters
3 Graham in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
4 QB misfire
5 —-of-the-road
6 Pasta specification
7 Till stack
8 Muscles near delts
9 Batting stat
10 Vacillate
11 "You —!": "Yep!"
12 Dept. of Labor arm
13 Fine —: Irish political party
14 Dine by candlelight, maybe
15 "The Canterbury Tales" character
16 Beverage brewed with solar energy
17 Go to
18 Gets rid of
24 Appliance in some hotel room closets
25 Reggae pioneer Peter
26 Like a ram or a lamb
31 Balanced
32 Curry of the NBA's "Splash Brothers"
33 Bypass
34 Home with cells
35 Tel —, Israel
36 Main points
37 Taking action
38 Captain of industry
39 Novelist Turgenev
40 Family room
44 Pants part
45 Award quartet for John Legend, for short
47 Grapefruit wedge
48 — guard
50 Lighting effect
51 "Poor, pitiful me!"
52 Puny parasite
54 "... — quit!"
55 Sulu player John
56 Choose
61 Routes without tolls
62 Person of the Year designator
63 Skip over
64 So-so
65 Some med. plans
66 Company abbr.
67 Guys
68 "Frozen" sister
70 Advent
71 Ramadan, e.g.
74 Essential fatty —
75 Brooks's country music partner
76 Gets into shape?
77 Castle trench
78 Standard
79 Koala hangout
80 Genre of the Mighty Mighty Bosstones
82 Tries to live up to
87 Smart —
89 Most uncanny
91 Cooking oil option
92 Weighed in
93 "The Addams Family" uncle
94 Foot part
95 Totally worthless
96 Recipe amt.
97 Built for NASA, say
98 Athlete's award
102 Soul mate?
103 Scrape covered with a Paw Patrol bandage, e.g.
104 Library convenience
105 Memo abbr.
106 Cowpoke's poker
107 "Will there be anything —?"
108 Dampens
110 Drift off
111 Fjord kin
112 One of five principal resources in the game Catan

Last week's solution: "Moving In"

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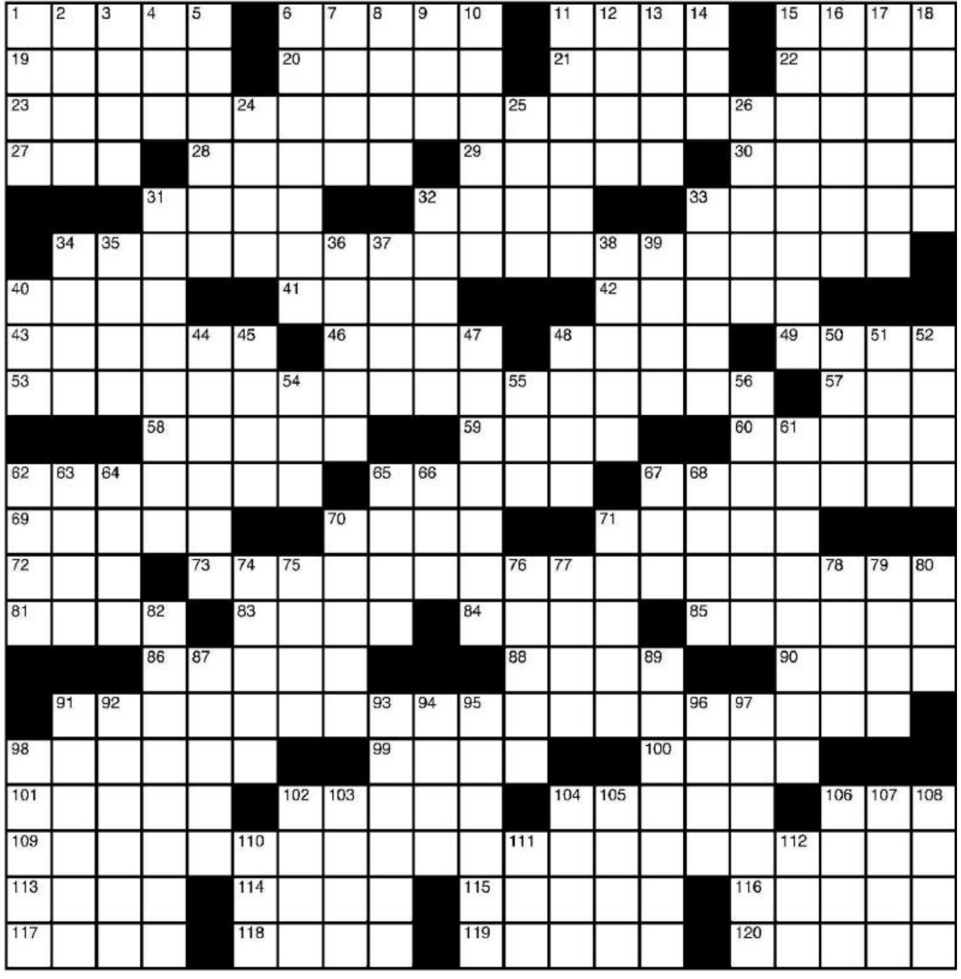


ASK AMY

Dear Amy: My international travel was interrupted by a pandemic-related issue when I was returning home from Europe, so I applied for reimbursement from the travel insurance. I was on the trip with my long-term "travel buddy," who had no problem traveling home.

I was told I would be reimbursed. My travel buddy was well aware of these details.

I was waiting for the check, which seemed extremely delayed.

My buddy and I met for our monthly lunch date, and she asked if I had received the insurance payment. When I said no, she produced an envelope from the insurance company addressed to me but sent to her mailing address due to clerical error.

She jokingly said she was trying to figure out how she could cash the check, which was for almost $10,000!

I replied it is against the law to cash a check that is in someone else's name.

Now I'm wondering if I should have asked for a better explanation about why she didn't tell me she had the check a month ago.

My friend grew up in India and came to the U.S. 40 years ago in an arranged marriage. I know her husband has been very controlling over money.

I'm rather disappointed by how she handled this. Should I ask for an explanation, or just be happy that she gave me my check?

Travel Insured

Dear Travel Insured: Yes, you should be happy that you received your check, and you should discuss this one more time with your friend.

Explain to her that the delay in receiving the check created a lot of worry for you. You also lost the opportunity to deposit and use that money while she had the check.

Ask how things are for her at home. Does she have money worries? Her husband's control over her finances might make her eager to have her own funds. Is there a way for her to do that?

She travels with you (away from him) but may feel stuck in other ways.

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com*.

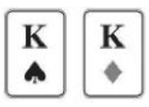
POKER

Jonathan Little

I was recently told about a hand from a $500 buy-in satellite into a $5,000 buy-in main event that illustrates a costly flaw that many novice poker players make. About 60 players remained in the satellite with 15 lucky ones winning their main event seat, so the players were nowhere near getting in the money.

With blinds at 1,200/2,400 with a 1,200 big blind ante, a somewhat standard player raised to 6,000 out of his 110,000 stack from middle position with K-K. Another typical player three-bet all-in for 25,000 from the cutoff. Another normal player on the button four-bet to 50,000 out of his 150,000 stack and then the action folded around to the initial raiser (with K-K). After some thought, he went all-in. In a normal tournament, this would be an easy all-in with K-K, but in a satellite, you have to be careful to not recklessly risk a stack that is essentially guaranteed to get in the money. At this point, the average stack was about 52,000. Many players immediately think this means Q-Q should be folded due to having a lot more than average (110,000) to avoid going broke, but that is far from the case.

Hero's hand



Some players justify folding by saying they will find a larger edge in the future. While this may be true, they don't realize just how large of an edge they need to find. If the player who made it 50,000 is four-betting A-A – J-J and A-K, Q-Q has 63% equity, which is way too much to pass up on. Even if you take J-J out of that range, K-K still wins 57% of the time, which is a substantial edge in close to the worst-case scenario, as almost no one folds A-A – Q-Q and A-K. Don't forget that they may even have a sporadic bluff or overvalue a hand like 8-8. Simply put, if they ever have J-J, A-K, or a bluff, folding K-K is a disaster.

The players who try to justify folding may also argue that they don't want to risk their entire stack, instead opting to slowly grind up their stack by stealing the blinds. While slowly chipping up is a fine strategy, when the stacks are relatively short, as they are in this situation (with an average stack of 20 big blinds), you simply must be willing to play substantial pots when you have a big advantage. Playing large pots with premium hands is where you generate a large portion of your edge.

As you may expect, the player who made it 50,000 instantly called the all-in with A-A, busting the player with K-K. When players bust in this manner, it further hammers home the incorrect assessment that K-K should have been folded. As long as players let the short-term fluctuations of the game cause them to make dramatic, unwarranted adjustments to basic strategy, poker will remain a highly profitable game for skilled players.

Little is a professional poker player with over $7,000,000 in live tournament cashes and author of 15 poker books.

SUDOKU

Level: Impossible

6			8					5
		1		5		2		
	4		6			1	7	
5		6		2				
	8		1		5		2	
				4		5		9
	1	8			9		5	
		3		7		8		
7					1			4

©Amuse Labs

1	2	3	4	7	8	5	6	9
7	8	4	5	6	9	2	1	3
9	5	6	2	3	1	4	7	8
3	6	5	7	1	2	8	9	4
8	4	1	9	5	3	7	2	6
2	7	9	6	8	4	3	5	1
4	1	2	8	9	5	6	3	7
5	9	7	3	4	6	1	8	2
6	3	8	1	2	7	9	4	5

Solution to last week's puzzle

More Online

For other brain-teasing challenges, go to *latimes.com/games*.

Level: Tough

				3				
	7	1						
	5	4	7		2			8
		3	2			8		5
	4			8			1	
5		8			9	2		
1			6		5	3	9	
						1	6	
				4				

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Level: Tough

3	6				
		2			
				4	
	1	6			
			6		
				2	3

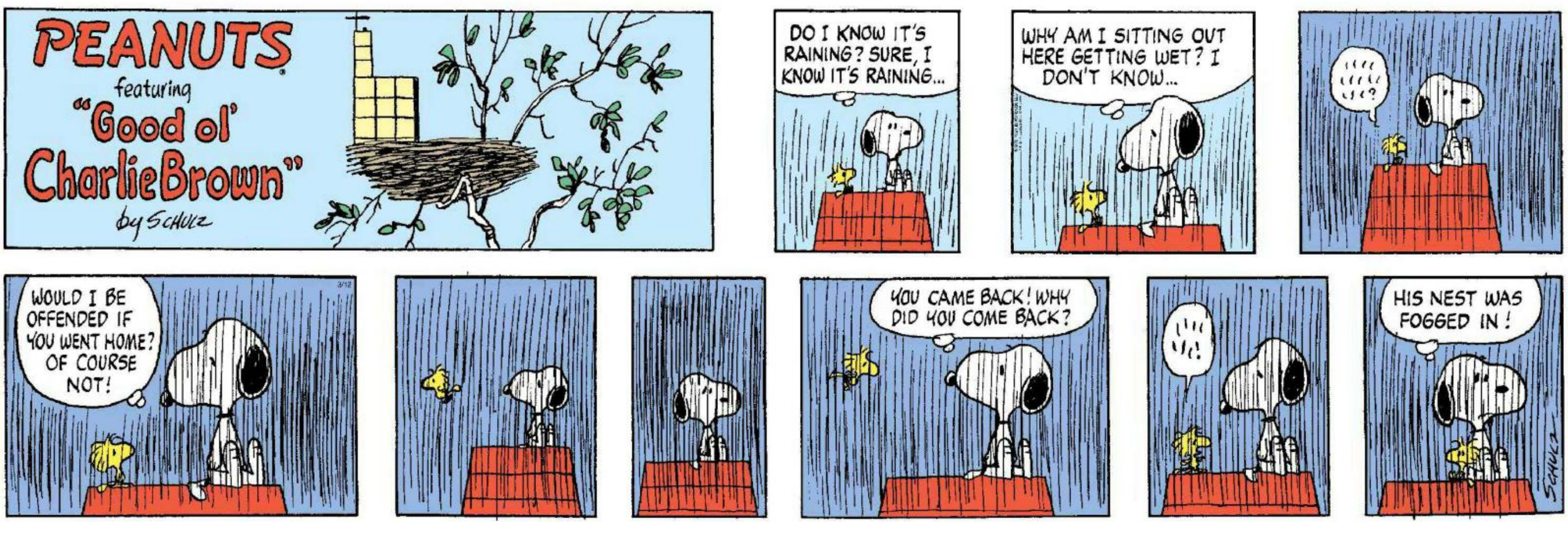
8	1	7	6	2	5	4	9	3
4	9	6	3	7	8	5	1	2
3	2	5	9	1	4	8	7	6
5	6	4	2	9	1	7	3	8
7	8	2	5	3	6	9	4	1
1	3	9	8	4	7	6	2	5
9	4	8	1	6	2	3	5	7
6	7	1	4	5	3	2	8	9
2	5	3	7	8	9	1	6	4

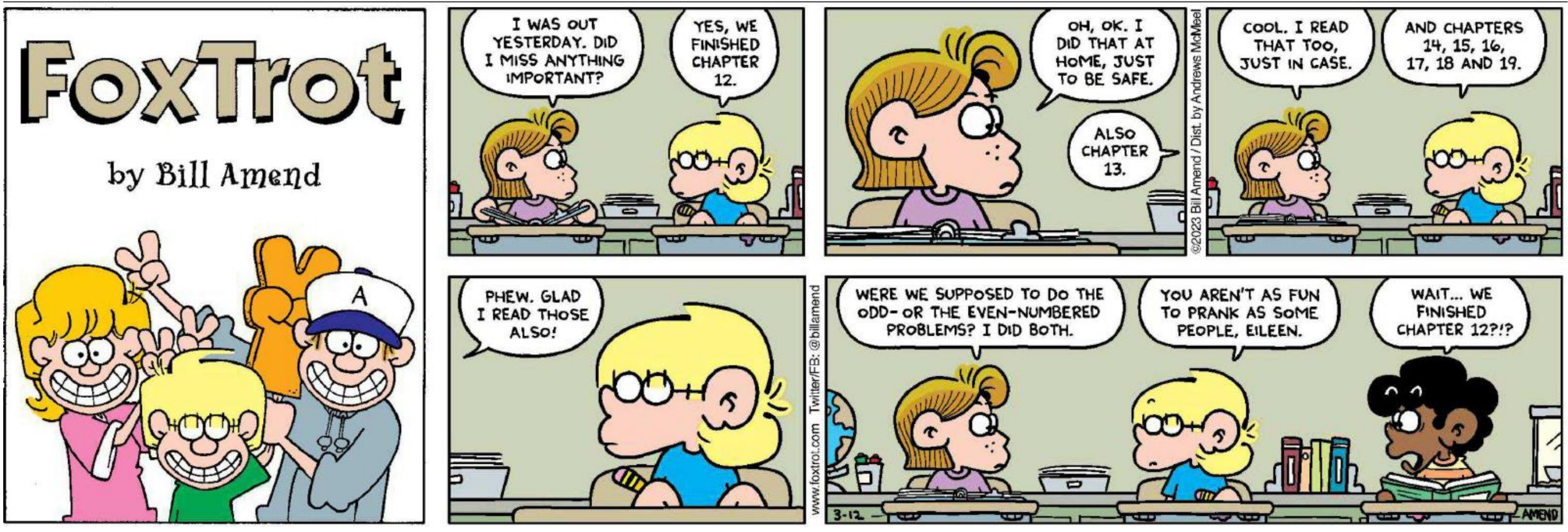
5	3	1	2	6	4
4	6	2	3	5	1
3	4	5	1	2	6
2	1	6	4	3	5
1	5	3	6	4	2
6	2	4	5	1	3

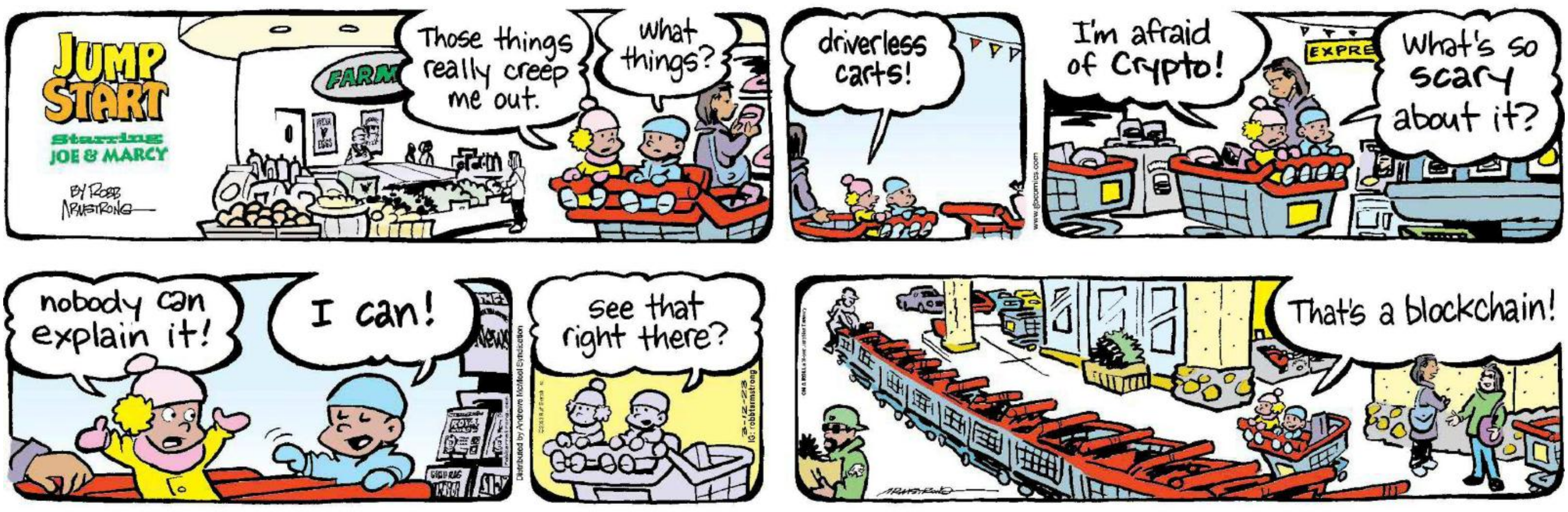
Solutions to Saturday's puzzles

3/12/23

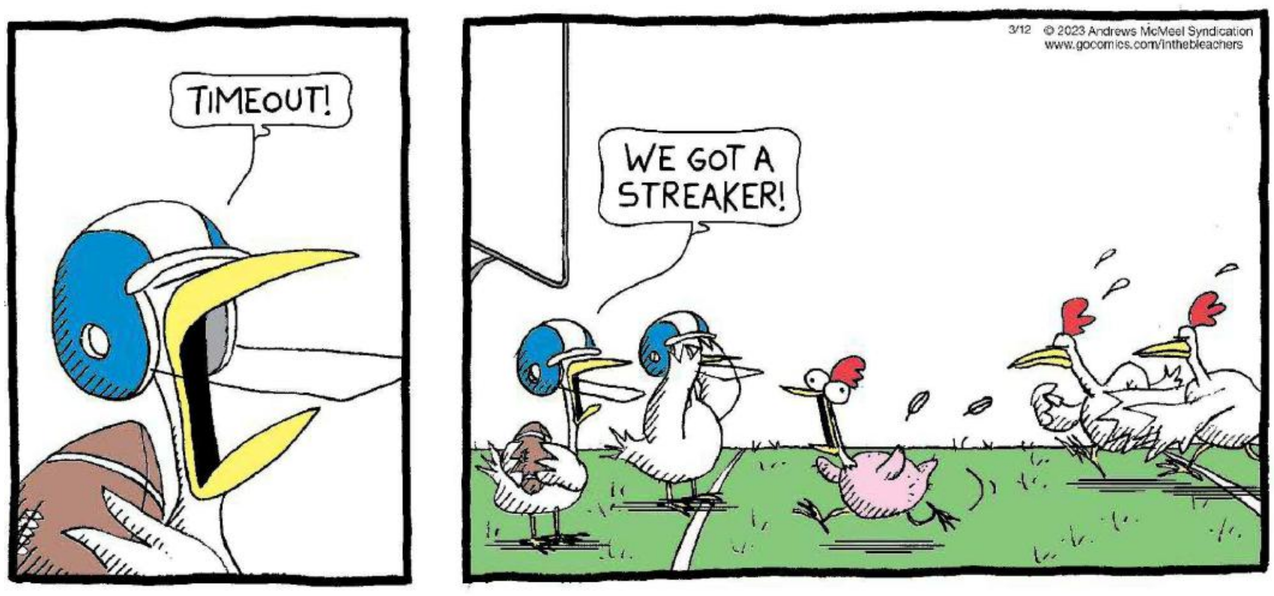
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.


PEANUTS
featuring "Good ol' Charlie Brown"
by Schulz
DO I KNOW IT'S RAINING? SURE, I KNOW IT'S RAINING...
WHY AM I SITTING OUT HERE GETTING WET? I DON'T KNOW...
WOULD I BE OFFENDED IF YOU WENT HOME? OF COURSE NOT!
3/12
YOU CAME BACK! WHY DID YOU COME BACK?
HIS NEST WAS FOGGED IN!
SCHULZ

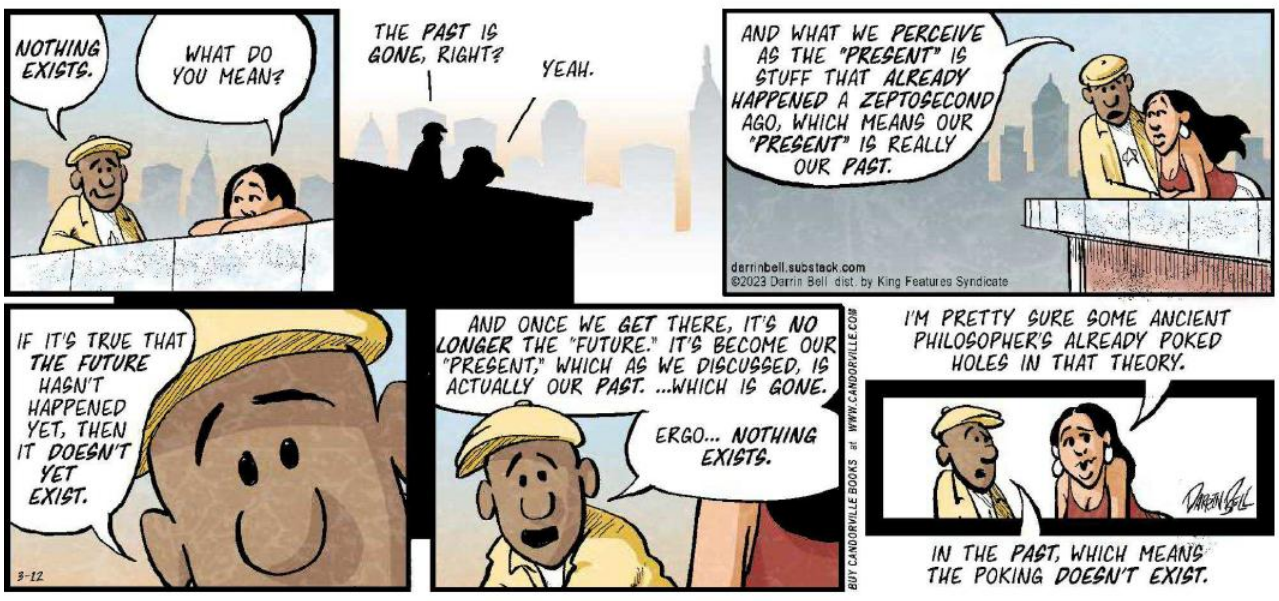

FoxTrot
by Bill Amend
I WAS OUT YESTERDAY. DID I MISS ANYTHING IMPORTANT?
YES, WE FINISHED CHAPTER 12.
OH, OK. I DID THAT AT HOME, JUST TO BE SAFE.
ALSO CHAPTER 13.
©2023 Bill Amend / Dist. by Andrews McMeel
COOL. I READ THAT TOO, JUST IN CASE.
AND CHAPTERS 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 AND 19.
PHEW. GLAD I READ THOSE ALSO!
www.foxtrot.com Twitter/FB: @billamend
WERE WE SUPPOSED TO DO THE ODD- OR THE EVEN-NUMBERED PROBLEMS? I DID BOTH.
YOU AREN'T AS FUN TO PRANK AS SOME PEOPLE, EILEEN.
WAIT... WE FINISHED CHAPTER 12?!?
3-12
AMEND


JUMP START
Starring JOE & MARCY
BY ROBB ARMSTRONG
FARM
Those things really creep me out.
what things?
driverless carts!
www.gocomics.com
I'm afraid of Crypto!
EXPRE
What's so scary about it?
nobody can explain it!
I can!
NEWS
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
see that right there?
3-12-23
IG: robbtarmstrong
That's a blockchain!

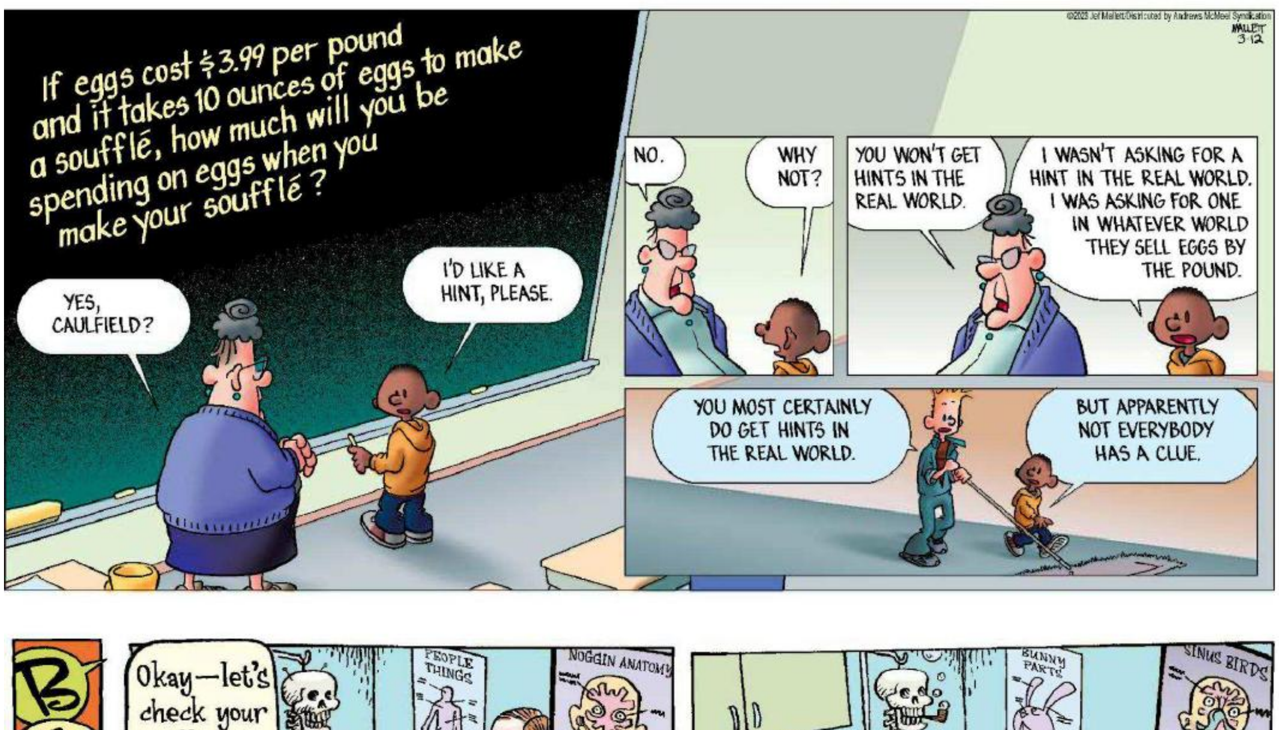
IN THE BLEACHERS By Steve Moore

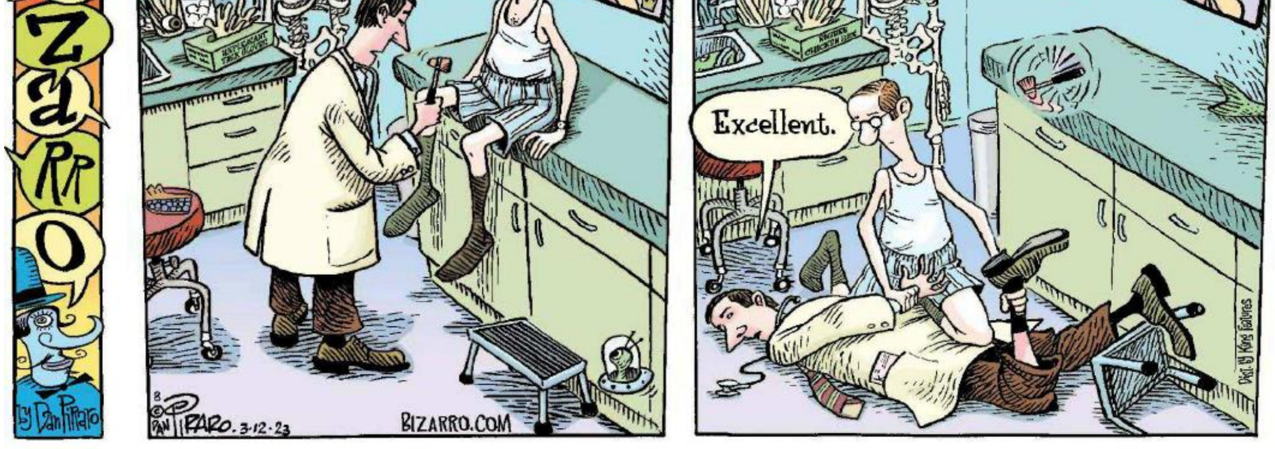

TIMEOUT!
3/12 © 2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication
www.gocomics.com/inthebleachers
WE GOT A STREAKER!

CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell

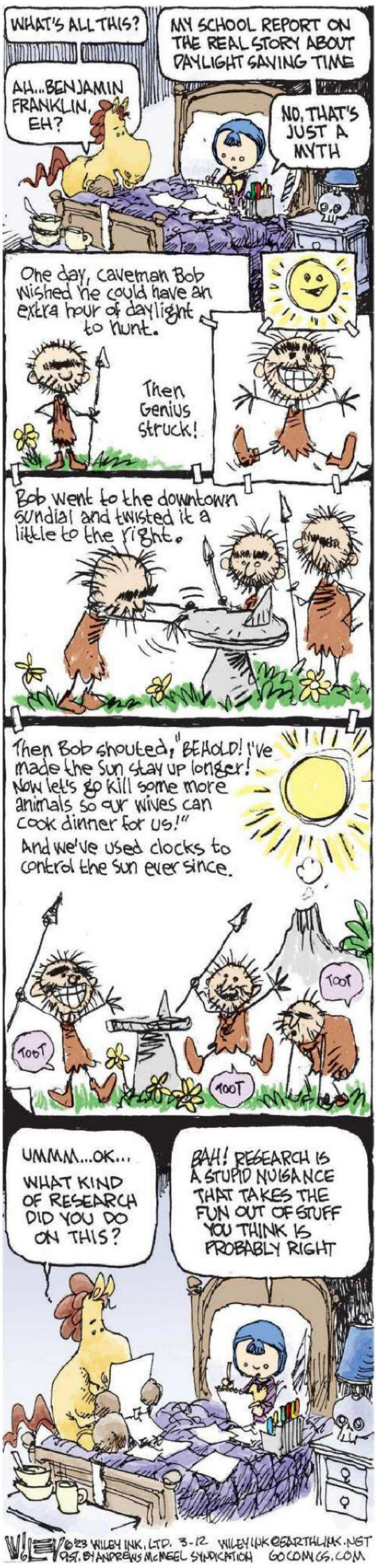

NOTHING EXISTS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THE PAST IS GONE, RIGHT?
YEAH.
AND WHAT WE PERCEIVE AS THE "PRESENT" IS STUFF THAT ALREADY HAPPENED A ZEPTOSECOND AGO, WHICH MEANS OUR "PRESENT" IS REALLY OUR PAST.
darrinbell.substack.com
©2023 Darrin Bell dist. by King Features Syndicate
IF IT'S TRUE THAT THE FUTURE HASN'T HAPPENED YET, THEN IT DOESN'T YET EXIST.
3-12
AND ONCE WE GET THERE, IT'S NO LONGER THE "FUTURE." IT'S BECOME OUR "PRESENT," WHICH AS WE DISCUSSED, IS ACTUALLY OUR PAST. ...WHICH IS GONE.
ERGO... NOTHING EXISTS.
BUY CANDORVILLE BOOKS at WWW.CANDORVILLE.COM
I'M PRETTY SURE SOME ANCIENT PHILOSOPHER'S ALREADY POKED HOLES IN THAT THEORY.
DARRIN BELL
IN THE PAST, WHICH MEANS THE POKING DOESN'T EXIST.

FRAZZ By Jef Mallett


If eggs cost $3.99 per pound and it takes 10 ounces of eggs to make a soufflé, how much will you be spending on eggs when you make your soufflé?
YES, CAULFIELD?
I'D LIKE A HINT, PLEASE.
©2023 Jef Mallett/Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
MALLETT 3-12
NO.
WHY NOT?
YOU WON'T GET HINTS IN THE REAL WORLD.
I WASN'T ASKING FOR A HINT IN THE REAL WORLD. I WAS ASKING FOR ONE IN WHATEVER WORLD THEY SELL EGGS BY THE POUND.
YOU MOST CERTAINLY DO GET HINTS IN THE REAL WORLD.
BUT APPARENTLY NOT EVERYBODY HAS A CLUE.


BiZARRO
by Dan Piraro
Okay—let's check your reflexes...
PEOPLE THINGS
NOGGIN ANATOMY
© DAN PIRARO. 3-12-23
BIZARRO.COM
BUNNY PARTS
SINUS BIRDS
Excellent.
Dist. by King Features

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley


WHAT'S ALL THIS?
MY SCHOOL REPORT ON THE REAL STORY ABOUT DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
AH...BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, EH?
NO, THAT'S JUST A MYTH
One day, caveman Bob wished he could have an extra hour of daylight to hunt.
Then Genius struck!
Bob went to the downtown sundial and twisted it a little to the right.
Then Bob shouted, "BEHOLD! I've made the Sun stay up longer! Now let's go kill some more animals so our wives can cook dinner for us!"
And we've used clocks to control the Sun ever since.
TOOT
TOOT
TOOT
UMMM...OK... WHAT KIND OF RESEARCH DID YOU DO ON THIS?
BAH! RESEARCH IS A STUPID NUISANCE THAT TAKES THE FUN OUT OF STUFF YOU THINK IS PROBABLY RIGHT
WILEY ©23 WILEY INK, LTD. 3-12 WILEYINK@EARTHLINK.NET
DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION GOCOMICS.COM

Parade

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 202

MOON RIVER

RAINDROPS KEEP FALLIN' ON MY HEAD

THE STORIES BEHIND THE SONGS

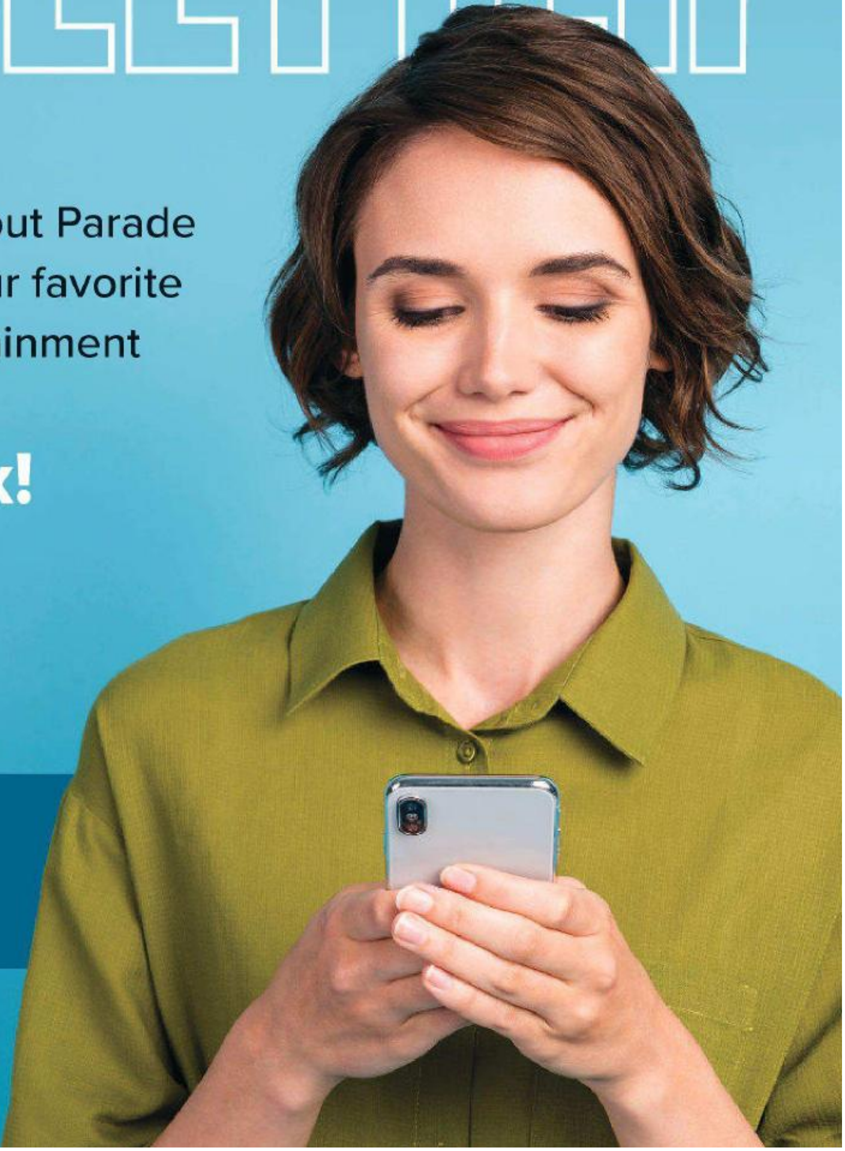
OSCARS' GREATEST HITS

SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW

THEME FROM *SHAFT*

Parade

Parade's Daily
NEWSLETTER



Get more of what you love about Parade magazine—interviews with your favorite celebrities, must-watch entertainment recommendations and more—
right in your inbox!

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SIGN UP TODAY!**

WALTER SCOTT'S

Personality Parade

BRAVO MICHELLE YEOH!

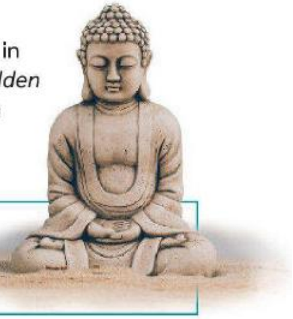
Our fingers are crossed she'll be the first Asian woman to win a Best Actress Oscar.

Win or lose at the 95th Academy Awards ceremony tonight (8 pm ET on ABC), Michelle Yeoh, 60—whose performance in the sci-fi drama *Everything Everywhere All at Once* earned her a nomination—has the honor of being the first Asian woman nominated for an Oscar in the Best Actress category. Yeoh won the Golden Globe for Best Actress earlier this year.

Here are some facts you may not know about the Malaysian-born actress, whose credits include *Tomorrow Never Dies* (1997), *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000), *Memoirs of a Geisha* (2005) and *Crazy Rich Asians* (2018).

It took 59 years for Yeoh to land her first lead role in a Hollywood film, ***Everything Everywhere All at Once***, which resulted in her Oscar nomination.

- Born in Ipoh, Perak, Yeoh speaks English, Malay and Cantonese.
- She began studying ballet at age four and eventually enrolled in the prestigious Royal Academy of Dance.
- Yeoh was crowned Miss Malaysia in 1983, and then traveled to Australia where she also won the Miss Moomba and Queen of the Pacific titles.
- Her standing as Miss Malaysia earned her a spot in a commercial starring Jackie Chan. She moved on to action films, and the rest is history.
- Despite appearing in *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, she has no formal martial arts training.



Yeoh practices Buddhism.

One of her biggest acting challenges? Learning how to correctly walk in a kimono for ***Memoirs of a Geisha***. If you do it wrong, she's said, "it's like dragging a dead cat across the floor."

Go to ***Parade.com/oscar101*** for everything you need to know about tonight's Academy Awards.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: DAVID BORNFRIEND/A24; ISTOCK; MAXIMUM FILM/ALAMY; GILBERT FLORES/VARIETY VIA GETTY IMAGES

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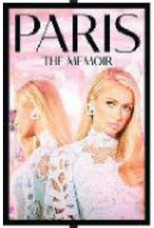
WALTER SCOTT'S
Personality Parade

WALTER SCOTT ASKS...

PARIS HILTON

Heiress. Party girl. Influencer. Reality star. These are all adjectives that have been used to label *The Simple Life* star, 42, but with the release of *Paris: The Memoir* (March 14), Hilton is hoping to change the descriptors to entrepreneur, survivor, activist, wife and mother. In her upcoming chronicle, she reveals the defining moments of her life and how she created a multibillion-dollar empire and found fulfillment.



You had already written *Confessions of an Heiress*. So why the new book? That was more of a fun, tongue-in-cheek book. This book is very serious and it's my life story, everything that I've gone through. I felt that my documentary, *This Is Paris*, was the first time that I had really been vulnerable and showed who I truly was. I felt there was so much more to the story. I think it's an important story, especially for young girls to read. I wish I had had this type of book back when I was a teenager.

How did surviving abuse at a psychiatric youth residential treatment center lead to who you are today? That definitely made me strong and able to have a really tough skin to make it through anything. It also gave me the drive to work hard to become successful, so that no one would be able to control me again.

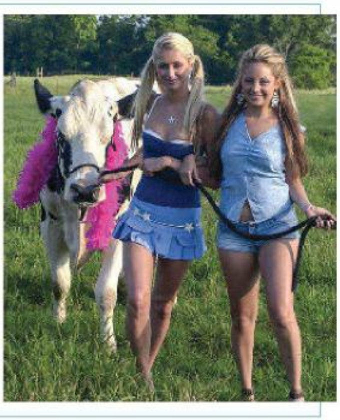
Is your work trying to pass laws for troubled teens to show solidarity to other young people? [My experience] was so traumatizing that I kept it in for over 20 years. That was because these places really instill shame. That's what they do to the children to keep them silent. Me using my voice has resulted in more change and more impact than in the past 60 years of people trying to fight for this, so I'm just going to continue to help let people know what's happening behind closed doors. I've already changed laws, and I introduced my bill a few months back in D.C., so it'll be illegal in all 50 states for children to be abused at these places.

It's incredible that you were able to forgive your parents. As a teenager, I didn't know what I know now. Now I understand that the parents of these children are just as much the victims as the children. These places lie, they have deceptive marketing, they manipulate the families. My parents thought they were sending me to a normal boarding school. They had no idea.

When you look back, are there any regrets? I am such a strong woman because of everything that I've been through. I feel like everything we go through in life just builds you up to be a stronger and better person.

Congratulations on being a new mom. What surprised you about the experience? Just looking in his eyes and feeling a love that I have never experienced before in my life. He's just such a little angel. I've never felt happier or fuller in my life. My life feels so complete now with him. I'm more about mom life than boss-babe life now. P

When you said yes to *The Simple Life*, did you have any idea how the image that you projected on the show would stick? *The Simple Life* was the first of its kind, so we had no blueprint to follow. I had no idea it would be such a huge success and that I would play that character for five seasons. I'm not a dumb blonde. I'm just very good at pretending to be one. I love to be underestimated and prove people wrong. Now, with my business and my company, 11:11 Media, when I walk into a boardroom, people see the type of businesswoman I am. I'm proud they are seeing that I was in on the joke the entire time and knew exactly what I was doing.



FROM TOP: JON KOPALOFF/GETTY IMAGES; MAXIMUM FILM/ALAMY

Love great interviews? Go to ***Parade.com/walterscott*** for more.

The **Parade** Don't Miss List

Here's what's on our radar for the week ahead. Go to ***Parade.com/entertainment*** for more.

TED LASSO

(MARCH 15 ON APPLE TV+)

It's time to believe again when *Ted Lasso* returns for its third season following its back-to-back Emmy Award wins for seasons one and two. Back on the pitch, the newly promoted AFC Richmond faces ridicule as media predictions widely peg them as last in the Premier League. While Ted (**Jason Sudeikis**) must deal with former employee Nathan "Nate" Shelley (**Nick Mohammed**) who's moved on to coach for the competition, his boss Rebecca (Hannah Waddingham) is now happily leading the players and wants the best for them. "As far as her personal life is concerned, it's delicious chaos as usual," said Waddingham, 48, who won Emmy and Critics Choice Awards for her portrayal. "That's life, right? You never have everything sorted."

Will season 3 be the last? Brett Goldstein, 42, who stars as Roy Kent and also serves as a writer on the show, has said yes: "It was planned as three," he said. Good reason to savor every episode.

BONO & THE EDGE: A SORT OF HOMECOMING, WITH DAVE LETTERMAN

(MARCH 17 ON DISNEY+)

When the U2 bandmates made a return to Dublin at the end of the COVID-19 lockdown, they invited the former late-night talk show host to join them for a conversation about music and friendship. *Bono & The Edge* features never-before-seen footage and interviews detailing their songwriting process and the inspiration behind their greatest hits, several of which they re-recorded and will be released in the upcoming album *Songs of Surrender* (March 17), which is a collection of 40 seminal U2 songs from across the band's catalog, rerecorded and reimagined for 2023 in sessions spanning the last two years.

BOSTON STRANGLER

(MARCH 17 IN THEATERS)

Carrie Coon and **Keira Knightley** play reporters in 1960s Boston who broke through sexism and corruption to report on the Boston Strangler, who murdered 13 women. Knightly (37, a long way from *Pirates of the Caribbean*), plays Loretta McLaughlin, who first connected the dots among the murders, assisted in reporting by Jean Cole, played by Coon (42, who also stars on *The Gilded Age* on HBO).

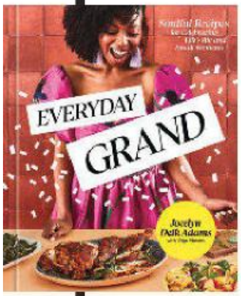
65

(MARCH 10 IN THEATERS)

Here's **Adam Driver**, 39, of *House of Gucci* and *Star Wars* fame as you've never seen him before. In this sci-fi thriller he plays Mills, an astronaut who's crash-landed on a mysterious planet—only to discover that's it is earth 65 millions years ago. Yes, that means there are prehistoric creatures impeding his survival, and escape.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: FLIXPIX/ALAMY; PATTI PERRET/SONY PICTURES; DISNEY+; APPLE TV+

MAKE EVERY MEAL GRAND



Popular blogger (Grandbaby Cakes) and Food Network judge (*Santa's Baking Blizzard* and *Beat Bobby Flay*) Jocelyn Delk Adams believes every day should be a celebration. That's the idea behind this simple sheet-pan supper that channels the flavors of French onion soup and this glorious Bundt cake that looks fancy but is easy to make. Both recipes are from Delk Adams' new cookbook, *Everyday Grand*. BY ALISON ASHTON

French Onion Sheet Pan Chicken

This sheet-pan dinner is inspired by Delk Adams' lifelong love of French onion soup. If you can't find Vidalia onions, substitute another sweet variety, such as Oso, Maui or Walla Walla.

Position a rack in the middle of the oven. Preheat oven to 450°F.

In a small bowl, whisk ⅓ cup **beef stock** and 2 tsp **Worcestershire sauce**. In another small bowl, whisk 1 Tbsp **kosher salt**, 2 tsp freshly ground **black pepper** and 2 tsp **smoked paprika.**

Thoroughly pat 3½ lb **bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs** dry. Lightly brush a large rimmed baking sheet with **extra-virgin olive oil**; sprinkle generously with paprika mixture. Place chicken on baking sheet, skin-side up; brush with 2 Tbsp olive oil. Generously season chicken with remaining paprika mixture. Pour stock mixture around chicken (not on top). Roast chicken 20 minutes.

While chicken is cooking, in a medium skillet, heat 1 Tbsp olive oil and 2 Tbsp unsalted butter over medium until butter has melted. Add 2 **large Vidalia onions**, thinly sliced (about 1½ lb total), and 1 tsp **granulated sugar**. Season with a couple of generous pinches of **salt**, cover, and cook 15 minutes, stirring every 5 minutes and adjusting heat as needed to prevent onions from burning. Uncover and cook 5 minutes or until onions turn a beautiful light caramel color. Stir in leaves from 3 **thyme sprigs**; cook 2 minutes or until fragrant. Remove from heat; set aside.

In a small bowl, combine ⅓ cup **dry sherry, dry vermouth or white wine**; 2 Tbsp finely chopped **flat-leaf parsley** and 4 cloves **garlic**, minced or finely grated. Remove chicken from oven; evenly pour sherry mixture over thighs. Evenly divide caramelized onions over each thigh, followed by 6 oz **Gruyère cheese**, shredded.

Return chicken to oven. Roast 15 minutes or until cheese has fully melted. Let rest for about 5 minutes. Serve garnished with parsley. **Serves 6.**

Want more chicken? Go to ***Parade.com/harissa-chicken*** for a sheet pan meal with pizazz.

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Praline Sweet Potato Pound Cake

Pound cakes are a specialty for Delk Adams, who has been perfecting them since childhood. “At an early point in my Grandbaby Cakes journey, my followers started dubbing me the ‘Queen of Pound Cakes,’” she recalls. “I graciously accepted this title and now refer to myself this way in all settings, from random conversations with strangers to professional Zoom meetings.

“The trick to pound-cake success rests in nailing the moistness and texture; bonus points for creative flavors,” she says. “And that’s where this cake shines!”

You’ll need **1-2 medium sweet potatoes** to yield enough mashed sweet potato for this recipe. Prick sweet potatoes with a fork and roast them at 450°F for 50 minutes or until tender. Let stand until cool enough to peel, then halve and scoop out the flesh.

PECAN SWIRL

In a medium bowl, whisk together 2/3 cup packed **light brown sugar**; 1⁄3 cup finely chopped **pecans**; 5 Tbsp **unsalted butter**, melted; 2 Tbsp **all-purpose flour**; 1½ tsp **ground cinnamon** and 1 tsp **vanilla extract** until thoroughly combined. Refrigerate while making cake.

CAKE

Position a rack in middle of oven. Preheat oven to 350°F. Liberally grease a 10-cup Bundt pan with butter and dust with flour.

In a medium bowl, whisk 3 cups **all-purpose flour**, sifted; 1½ tsp **baking powder**; 1 tsp ground cinnamon; 1 tsp **kosher salt**; ½ tsp **baking soda** and ¼ tsp freshly grated **nutmeg** until well combined.

In bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, beat 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature, and 2 cups **granulated sugar** on high speed for 5 minutes or until light and fluffy. Add 5 **large eggs**, at room temperature, one at a time, ensuring that each egg is incorporated before adding the next. Stop and scrape down sides of bowl as needed. Add ¾ cup **sour cream**, at room temperature; ¾ cup **mashed cooked sweet potato** and 1½ Tbsp vanilla extract; beat on medium speed until incorporated (batter will look curdled, but it’s all good). Reduce mixer speed to low, carefully add dry ingredients, and mix until just combined (batter will be thick).

Scoop half the batter into prepared pan. Remove praline swirl mixture from refrigerator and crumble with a fork, then sprinkle mixture over batter in pan. Scoop remaining batter into pan, smoothing top with a small offset spatula. Bake 50-60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into center comes out moist but mostly clean. Transfer to a wire rack and let cool in pan 10 minutes. Invert cake onto rack; cool completely.

PRALINE GLAZE

In a medium saucepan, combine 5 Tbsp unsalted butter, ½ cup packed light brown sugar, ½ cup **heavy cream**, 1 Tbsp **light corn syrup**, ½ tsp vanilla extract and ½ tsp kosher salt. Cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, until mixture comes to a simmer. Stir in 1½ cups chopped pecans until completely coated. Transfer glaze to a liquid measuring cup; cool completely. Pour cooled glaze over cooled cake; let set about 25 minutes before slicing and serving **Serves 10-12**.

Boost Your Bundt

Delk Adams’ pound cake recipe works beautifully in a standard Bundt pan. But if you’d like a more dramatic pattern, try these other fancier pans.

The gold, cast aluminum **JUBILEE BUNDT PAN** from Nordic Ware has an interesting diamond design. The nonstick surface makes for easy cleanup; 10-cup capacity. **$42, amazon.com**

The **MINI JOYS FLUTED PANS** from Baker's Secret are heavy-duty aluminum with nonstick coating in four sweet styles. **$37, amazon.com**

The **HERITAGE BUNDT PAN** from Nordic Ware is made of cast aluminum for even baking and has a nonstick surface for easy release; 10-cup capacity. **$40, amazon.com**

Visit ***Parade.com/martha-bundt*** for Martha Stewart’s favorite Bundt cake recipe.

The STORIES *behind the* SONGS

Our special Oscars Edition goes behind the scenes of some of the most enduring Academy Award-winning songs, from *The Wizard of Oz*'s "Over the Rainbow" to *Titanic*'s "My Heart Will Go On." **BY JIM FARBER**

The Oscar winners for Best Picture, Actor or Actress may make headlines, but the award for Best Original Song often makes history. The earliest winner, "Lullaby of Broadway" from 1935, has generated scores of indelible covers in the decades since, by stars from Bing Crosby to Bette Midler.

This year's candidates will likely set records of their own. Should Diane Warren's song "Applause" from the film *Tell It Like a Woman* take the prize, she'll break a curse of 13 straight losses. If Lady Gaga's "Hold My Hand," from *Top Gun: Maverick*, triumphs, she'll grab the title for the second time in four years. And if the viral sensation "Naatu Naatu" from the Indian drama *RRR* wins, it will represent the first time an entry from India has ever done so.

Here are 15 of the most dramatic stories behind Oscars' Best Songs. And go to ***Parade.com/best-songs-of-1973*** for the story behind Paul McCartney's "Live and Let Die."

1940 "Over the Rainbow" from *The Wizard of Oz*

One of the most hopeful songs ever written almost didn't make it into the movie that put it over the top. The producers of *The Wizard of Oz* asked the dream team of Harold Arlen (music) and Yip Harburg (lyrics) to write a song to appear towards the start of film that would express the deep yearning their lead character, Dorothy Gale, felt for a land beyond her family's bleak Kansas farm. When executives at MGM saw an early cut of the film, however, they thought the song slowed down the plot too soon. So, they proposed axing it, much to the horror of the composers who had labored over their piece.

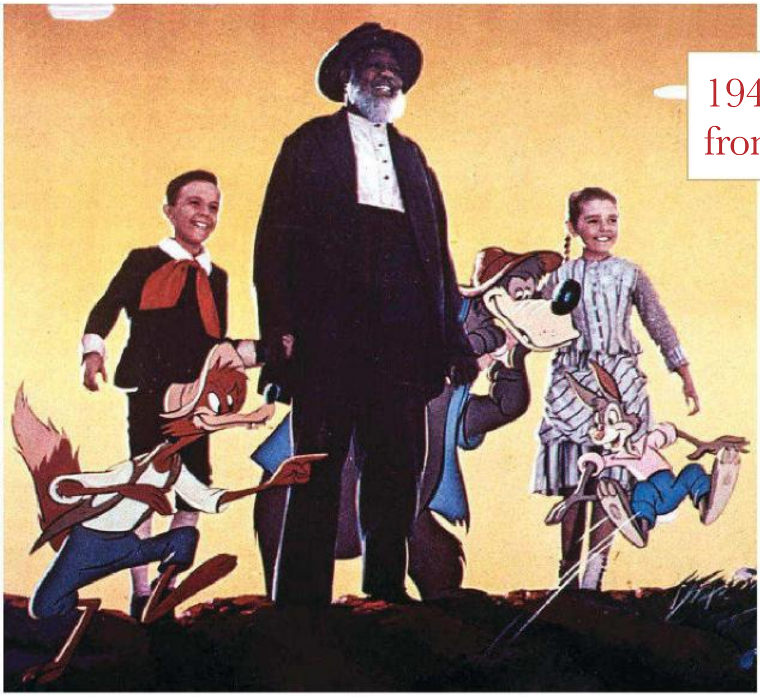
Arlen's first attempt at the music struck Harburg as too slow and he wasn't thrilled with his initial run at the lyrics. In testing stages, he started with "I'll go over the rainbow" or "Someday over the rainbow." Eventually, Harburg convinced Arlen to pick up the pace and settled on the classic verbiage that was delivered beautifully enough by a 16-year-old **Judy Garland** to help the film win its sole Oscar. Though nominated in many other categories, it lost all those to another classic released the same year: *Gone With The Wind*.

COVER CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CBS VIA GETTY IMAGES; SCREEN ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES; JOHN KISCH ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES; SILVER SCREEN COLLECTION/GETTY IMAGES; FEATURE BY ARCHIVIO GBB/ALAMY

1943 “White Christmas” from *Holiday Inn*

Savvy songwriters know, if you want your piece to last forever, hitch it to a holiday. Probably no song in history has made more of that maxim than Irving Berlin’s “White Christmas.” As crooned by **Bing Crosby**, it’s often credited as not just the top-selling Christmas anthem ever but, likely, the biggest seller in any musical category.

While exact sales weren’t tallied until the introduction of SoundScan in 1991, Guinness estimates its sales at over 50 million. The song’s initial emotional tug has often been credited to the fact that it was released during the first holiday season American military men spent away from home during World War II. It hit No. 1 that year, going on to enjoy chart comebacks every winter since. Even the announcement of the Oscar win made history: It’s the only time that the person who presented the Song award (Berlin) also won it.



1948 “Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah” from *Song of the South*

The lyrics to this well-known Disney song imagine a life of unbroken blue skies and pure bliss. But the movie it came from, *Song of the South*, had a dark lining. Its script promoted racial stereotypes and whitewashed the realities of slavery. The African-American star who sang the song, **James Baskett**, couldn’t even attend the film’s premiere in Atlanta due to segregation laws at the time. All that didn’t stop the song from becoming the second Disney ditty to win an Oscar, after “When You Wish Upon a Star” from *Pinocchio* (1940).

Neither did it stop Phil Spector from having a Top Ten hit with his version of it in 1962. But, by the ‘80s, changing attitudes moved Disney to refrain from releasing *Song of the South* on home video and, later, to ban it from their streaming platform, Disney+.

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ARCHIVE PL/ALAMY; EVERETT COLLECTION HISTORICAL/ALAMY; UNITED ARCHIVES GMBH/ALAMY

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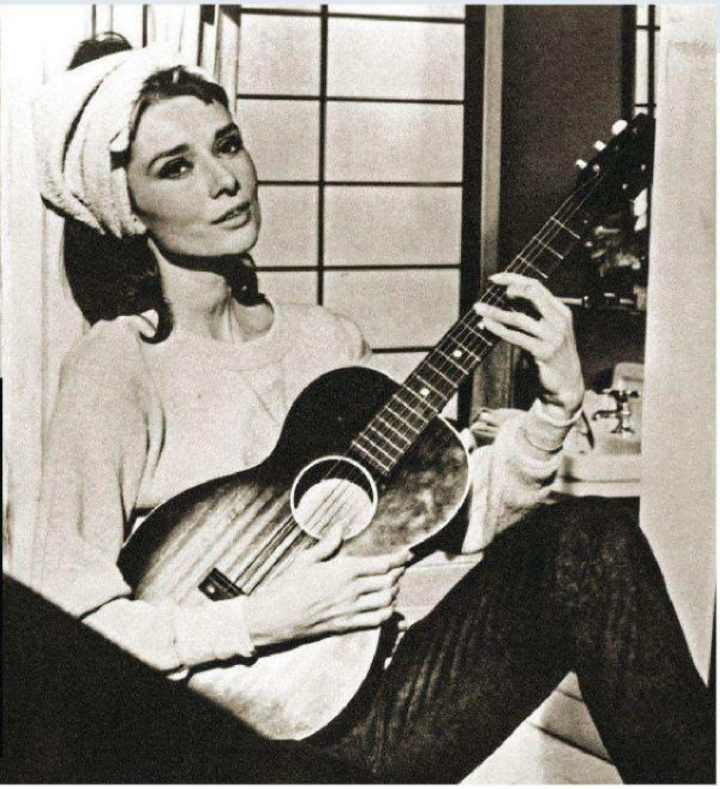
1950 "Baby It's Cold Outside" from *Neptune's Daughter*

Another controversial Oscar winner took six decades to draw that ire. The issue centered on the lyrics, which feature a call and response between a host, dubbed the "Wolf" (usually voiced by a male) and a guest named "Mouse" (commonly sung by a female). "Wolf" keeps asking "Mouse" to spend the night with him, ostensibly due to the cold, but also so they can create their own heat. "Mouse" politely demurs while making it clear that the "Wolf's" come-ons are far from unappealing to her.

Interestingly, the song, by **Frank Loesser**, was chosen for the film *Neptune's Daughter* (starring **Ricardo Montalbán** and **Esther Williams**) after censors felt that his first submission, "(I'd Like to Get You on a) Slow Boat to China," was too racy. For decades, everyone took the song as just a flirty lark. It wasn't until the twenty-tens that listeners on social media began to view the male character's behavior as sexual harassment. In 2018, a number of U.S. and Canadian radio stations banned the song, which wound up causing a backlash. That year, the song shot back into Billboard's Digital Top 10.

1962 "Moon River" from *Breakfast at Tiffany's*

"Moon River" has a melody anybody can sing—for a reason. Composer Henry Mancini designed it to suit the charming, but modest, vocal range of the actress who introduced it to the world: **Audrey Hepburn**. While her version of "Moon River" helped establish the vulnerability of her iconic character, Holly Golightly, it became a hit for two other artists—Jerry Butler and **Andy Williams**. Interestingly, each version earned the same chart position (No. 11), but Williams' take had a longer life, serving as the theme song for his hit TV show (1962-1971). Hepburn suffered another blow to her vocal talents in 1964 when Marni Nixon was brought in to dub her singing parts in *My Fair Lady*.



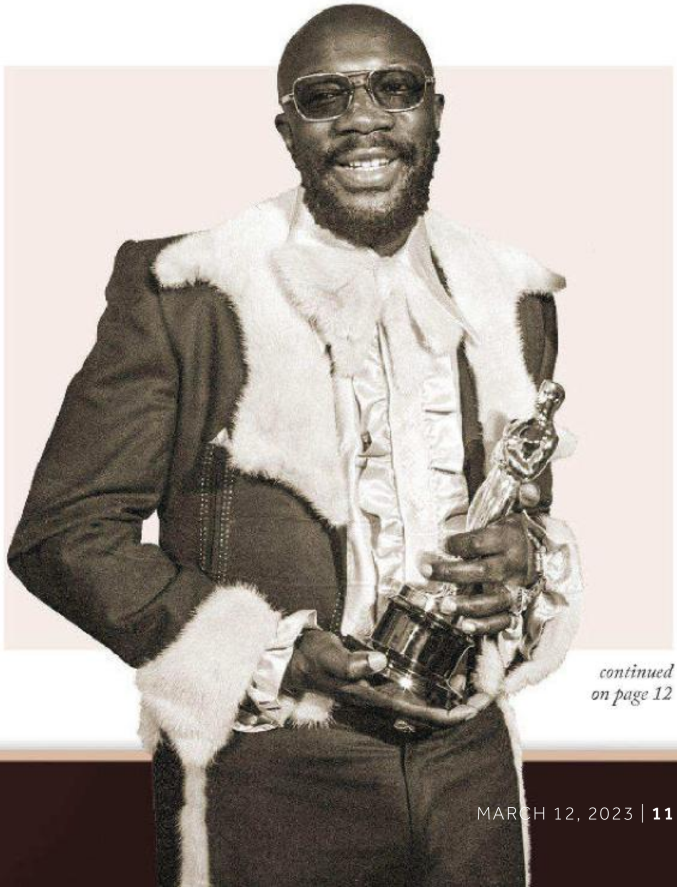
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MGM/RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE /ALAMY; JOHN SWOPE/GETTY IMAGES; FILMPUBLICITYARCHIVE/ UNITED ARCHIVES VIA GETTY IMAGES; HERB BALL/NBCU PHOTO BANK/NBCUNIVERSAL VIA GETTY IMAGES

1970 “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on My Head” from *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*

Before the songwriting team of **Burt Bacharach** and **Hal David** nabbed their Oscar for the insouciant “Raindrops” theme (for the film starring **Robert Redford**, **Paul Newman** and **Katherine Ross)**, they suffered three losses—for “What’s New Pussycat?” in 1966, “Alfie” in 1967, and “The Look of Love” in 1968. Bob Dylan and Ray Stevens turned down the chance to sing the song, so they tapped B.J. Thomas at the suggestion of Bacharach’s vocal muse, Dionne Warwick. The day Thomas recorded the song, he had laryngitis, giving him a rasp the songwriters liked. He cut a different version for the single which, aided by an extra horn solo, soared to No. 1.

1972 “Theme from Shaft” from *Shaft*

When **Isaac Hayes** got the Best Song prize, he became the first African American to take that award, as well as the first to win in any non-acting category. And he was the first Best Song champ to both write and perform the winning piece. The song’s lyrics—about a “private dick” (slang for detective) who’s “a sex machine to all the chicks”—became just as well-known as its distinct rhythm. Even the backup vocals became iconic, especially when **Telma Hopkins** stops Hayes from completing the sentence “he’s a bad mother...” by singing “Shut your mouth!” Later, Hopkins used that line as her catchphrase in sitcom acting roles in both *Bosom Buddies* and *Family Matters*. Initially, the Academy tried to disqualify Hayes from the competition because he didn’t notate his song. “Quincy Jones got in there and argued my case; saying that even if I didn’t physically write it down, they were my ideas,” Hayes told *Mojo* magazine. Hayes further put the Academy in its place by boldly performing the song on the show in his trademark bare-chested chain-link outfit, creating one of the most striking visual presentations in Oscar history.



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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FILMPUBLICITYARCHIVE/UNITED ARCHIVES VIA GETTY IMAGES; ABC PHOTO ARCHIVES/DISNEY GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT CONTENT VIA GETTY IMAGES; BETTMANN/GETTY IMAGES (2)

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1974 “The Way We Were” from *The Way We Were*

Barbra Streisand scored the first No. 1 single of her career with “The Way We Were,” the theme to her movie with **Robert Redford**. Her second, “Evergreen,” came three years later with another film she top-lined: *A Star is Born*. For the latter, Streisand wrote the music for Paul Williams’ lyrics, making her the first woman to win in a composing category. She also had a hand in shaping “The Way We Were.” During the composition stage, she convinced songwriter Marvin Hamlisch to change some notes in his melody from major keys to minor to stoke more emotion. She also changed the song’s first word from “daydreams” to “memories,” or, as she had to pronounce it to fit the tune, “mem’ries.”

1978 “Last Dance” from *Thank God It’s Friday*

The creators of “Last Dance” should thank God that far more people remember their rousing anthem than the junky movie that contained it. *The Washington Post* summarized *Thank God It’s Friday* as “90 aimless, alienating minutes” that “don’t sustain a glimmer of human interest.”

That was one of the nicer notices for a film whose creators hoped would be their answer to *Saturday Night Fever*. Remarkably, “Last Dance” became the first disco-identified track to win an Oscar, a distinction you might have thought would’ve gone to The Bee Gees’ classic *Fever* soundtrack. The man who penned “Last Dance,” Paul Jabara, also cowrote “Enough is Enough,” which featured a thrilling sing-off between Barbra Streisand and **Donna Summer**, the vocalist on “Last Dance.” The song suffered another ill-fated placement in 2010 when the fast-food chain Wendy’s included it on a CD that came with their kiddie meals. Outraged parents objected to the supposed use of the word “horny” in the song, a lyric that doesn’t officially appear and Summer claimed never to have sung. Regardless, the chain pulled the release.

FROM LEFT: SUNSET BOULEVARD/CORBIS VIA GETTY IMAGES; MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES

1989 "Let the River Run" from *Working Girl*

It should come as no surprise that some of the most literary lines ever to grace an Oscar-winning song came from **Carly Simon**, whose father cofounded the Simon & Schuster publishing company. She found inspiration for her uplifting words from the poems of Walt Whitman (many of which celebrate the movie's setting of New York) and William Blake (whose image of the "new Jerusalem" she borrowed).

Simon's song for the movie starring **Harrison Ford, Sigourney Weaver** and **Melanie Griffith**, became the first entry by a single artist to be honored with an Oscar, a Golden Globe and a Grammy. (Bruce Springsteen's 1993 song about a man dying of AIDS, "Streets of Philadelphia" for the movie *Philadelphia*, was the second.) The lyrical connection between Simon's uplifting song and New York City inspired the U.S. postal service to use it in an ad post-9/11. In 2009, Simon performed the piece at the World Trade Center site to honor those lost in the terrorist attack.

1998 "My Heart Will Go On" from *Titanic*

Everything seemed to go against using a pop song in the movie *Titanic*, which starred **Leo DiCaprio** and **Kate Winslet**. When the film's producers first asked its director (James Cameron) to stick a contemporary song into the movie, he balked, believing it would violate its historical context. He relented to allay the producers' fears that he was making a commercial bomb.

Likewise, when the producers approached Celine Dion to sing the song, she told *Billboard* she wanted "to choke" her manager/husband (René Angélil) for even suggesting it. At that point, she felt "soundtracked-out," having recently recorded theme songs for *Beauty and the Beast* and the Robert Redford movie *Up Close and Personal*. The song's producer (Walter Afanasieff) had just as withering an initial response, dubbing the song's early demo "dreary."

All that uncertainty wound up greatly benefiting the company with the soundtrack rights. They paid just $800,000, thinking they were going to get an instrumental score, not a pop smash. The soundtrack album, which was otherwise comprised of instrumentals by James Horner, wound up selling over 15 million copies. One week later, the song reappeared on Celine's album, *Let's Talk about Love*, which doubled the soundtrack's massive sales.

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ALLSTAR PICTURE LIBRARY LTD/ALAMY; RON GALELLA, LTD./RON GALELLA COLLECTION VIA GETTY IMAGES; CBS VIA GETTY IMAGES

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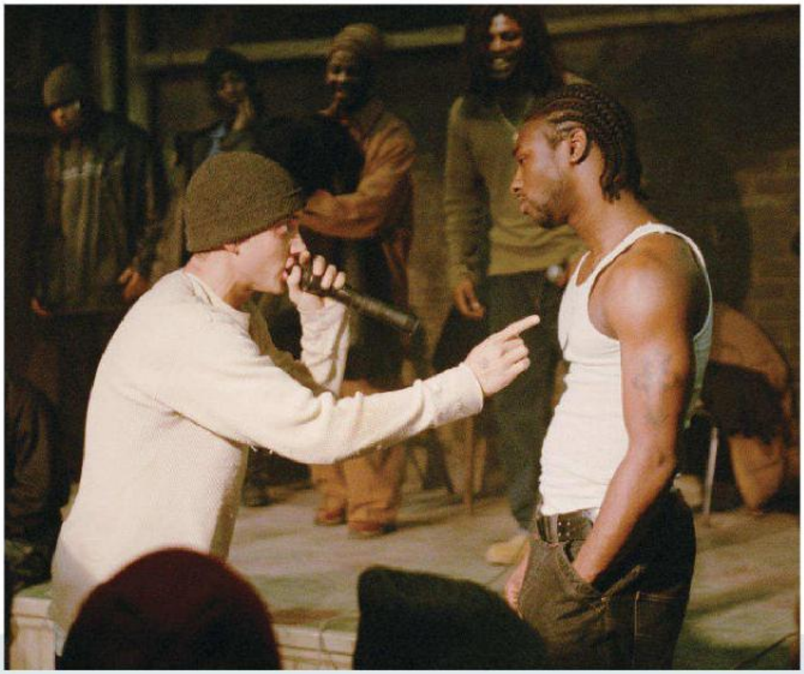
2003 "Lose Yourself" from *8 Mile*

Oscar voters may know quality music when they hear it, but they often have a tin ear for the cutting-edge kind. It came as welcome surprise, then, when **Eminem** took the prize for "Lose Yourself," in the process making him the first rapper to earn that distinction. (Three years later, another hip-hop track won the award: "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp" by Three 6 Mafia for the movie *Hustle & Flow*.) The combination of Eminem's compelling acting in the film *8 Mile* (with **Anthony Mackie**) and the complex lyricism in the song made his win more than worthy. It helped that he drew on his own life to create the piece. "It would sound so corny if I was just rapping as Jimmy Smith Jr. (his character in the film)," Eminem told the website *Genius*. "That was the trick I had to figure out—how to make the rhyme sound like him, then morph into me so you see the parallels between his struggles and mine." The track also became Eminem's first No. 1 single.



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2008 "Falling Slowly" from *Once*

The song that won the 2008 Oscar was nearly disqualified from the competition entirely. Academy rules stipulate that eligible nominees must have been written specifically for the film in consideration. But "Falling Slowly" had already appeared three times before its placement in the movie ***Once***. In 2006, it was included on a joint album by its composers, **Glen Hansard** and **Marketa Irglova**, as well as on a release by Hansard's main band, The Frames. It also served as the main theme for another movie, *Beauty in Trouble*.

Luckily for the songwriters, Oscar's overlords ruled that because the song was originally conceived to fit the plot of *Once*, and because relatively few people heard the earlier releases, it could be considered. The song further stood out from most Oscar nominees by its spare arrangement and intimate performances, giving it an underdog quality voters couldn't resist.

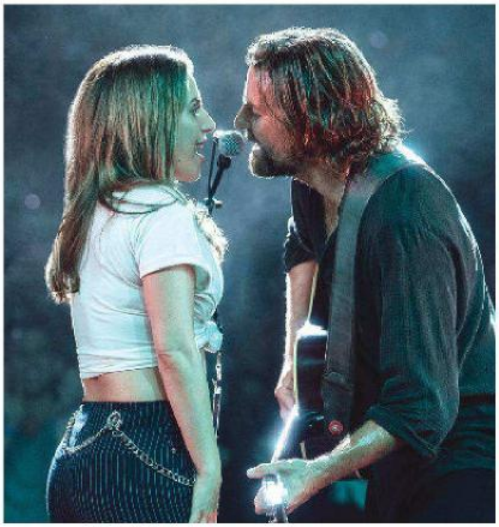
FROM TOP: MAXIMUM FILM/ALAMY; WALLY SKALIJ/LOS ANGELES TIMES VIA GETTY IMAGES

2013 "Skyfall" from *Skyfall*

Oscar voters flirted with Bond themes for decades before finally rewarding **Adele**'s entry in 2013. Four such pieces had been nominated before—the slinky Burt Bacharach-Hal David number "The Look of Love" for *Casino Royale* in 1968, the bombastic Paul McCartney blow-out "Live and Let Die" in '74, Carly Simon's sexy "Nobody Does it Better" for *The Spy Who Loved Me* in '78 and Sheena Easton's anthem in *For Your Eyes Only* in 1982.

While Adele's darkly sweeping melody for *Skyfall* (**Daniel Craig**, **Javiar Bardem**) broke the losing streak, she was initially self-conscious about taking the assignment. The film's director Sam Mendes told *Indie Wire* that Adele told him, "my songs are personal, I write from the heart." He brought her around by telling her to use Simon's intimate love song, "Nobody Does It Better," as her role model. The win paved the way for another Bond songwriter to clinch the award: In 2022, **Billie Eilish** took the prize for her "No Time to Die" theme.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES; COLLECTION CHRISTOPHEL/ALAMY; COLUMBIA PICTURES/ALAMY; PATRICK T. FALLON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



2018 "Shallow" from *A Star Is Born*

Hollywood can't remake *A Star is Born* often enough, it seems. Four versions have appeared so far—a 1937 narrative take starring Janet Gaynor and Fredric March, followed by three musicals: a 1954 version starring Judy Garland and James Mason, a 1976 redo with Barbra Streisand and Kris Kristofferson and, in 2018, the entry with **Lady Gaga** and **Bradley Cooper**. Interestingly, both Streisand's and Gaga's versions earned Best Song nods. Both were also cowritten by their singers and became No. 1 hits.

Still, Gaga's piece holds the record for the longest run on the charts for any Best Song champ. That's even more remarkable considering that the track paired her with Bradley Cooper, who's hardly known as a singer. Originally, "Shallow" wasn't conceived as a duet for the stars. Only later did Gaga and cowriter Mark Ronson realize how well that format could enhance the script. Its lyrical interplay underscored an urgent topic, one which Gaga stressed in her Oscar acceptance speech. "I'm so proud to be a part of a movie that addresses mental health issues," she said, before pointedly saying to her peers, "a lot of artists deal with that. We have to take care of each other." P

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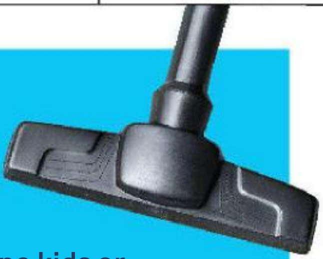
Ask Marilyn

BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT



Why is it so hard to get rid of dust? Our house has been completely shut throughout the winter with the obvious exception of opening outside doors occasionally. Only my wife and I are here—no kids or pets. We have central heating with a high-tech air cleaner, and I vacuum at least once weekly. Considering all this, one would think the dust would eventually be negligible, but I still see it on the furniture, and every time I vacuum, the canister is at least half full.

—Robert Carrell, Allison Park, Pennsylvania

A great deal of visible household dust is composed of fabric fibers and flakes of dead skin, so the source of the dust is likely already inside the house. For example, do you have any wall-to-wall carpeting? Rugs? Drapes or curtains? Furniture with cushions? Pillows? Towels? Do you and your wife wear clothing? If so, you're going to have plenty of dust right there! For a case in point, try taking the socks you wore yesterday and shaking them in the morning sunlight. Agh! And do you use paper products? Do you cook? Even without welcoming fresh (in theory, anyway) outside air in, dust indoors is inevitable.

And then there's all the particulate matter you can't see, such as mold, mildew and paint particles. As buildings age, too, construction material slowly breaks down.

And did I mention dust mites?

CLASSIC ASK MARILYN

THE CABLE QUESTION

SEPT. 14, 1997

A 30-foot cable is suspended between the tops of two 20-foot poles on level ground. The lowest point of the cable is 5 feet above the ground. What is the distance between the two poles?

—Warren Buckland, Morganville, N.J.

WORD TEASER

What's the definition of SNECK?

A. a malicious grin or laugh

B. an irregularly shaped stone used in masonry

C. the sound one makes when trying not to laugh

D. a rare type of short, stubby reptile that slithers

Find solutions to Marilyn's puzzles and this week's Numbrix on the next page!

Send questions to
marilyn@parade.com

Numbrix®

Complete 1 to 81 so the numbers follow a horizontal or vertical path—no diagonals.

29				25				5
	35			24			7	
77	78						18	1
	67			62			53	
69				61				51

For more Numbrix puzzles, go to *Parade.com/numbrix*.

ISTOCK

Ask Marilyn

BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT

SOLUTIONS

THE CABLE QUESTION

There is no distance between the poles at all. Envision a 20-foot pole. It would take 15 feet of cable just to go straight down to 5 feet above the ground, and it would take another 15 feet of cable to go straight back up. That's all the cable we've got! Those poles must be adjacent to each other.

WORD TEASER

A **SNECK** IS
B. AN
IRREGULARLY
SHAPED STONE
USED IN
MASONRY.

Numbrix®

March 12, 2023

29	28	27	26	25	12	11	6	5
30	35	36	37	24	13	10	7	4
31	34	81	38	23	14	9	8	3
32	33	80	39	22	15	16	17	2
77	78	79	40	21	20	19	18	1
76	75	74	41	44	45	46	47	48
71	72	73	42	43	56	55	54	49
70	67	66	63	62	57	58	53	50
69	68	65	64	61	60	59	52	51

ISTOCK

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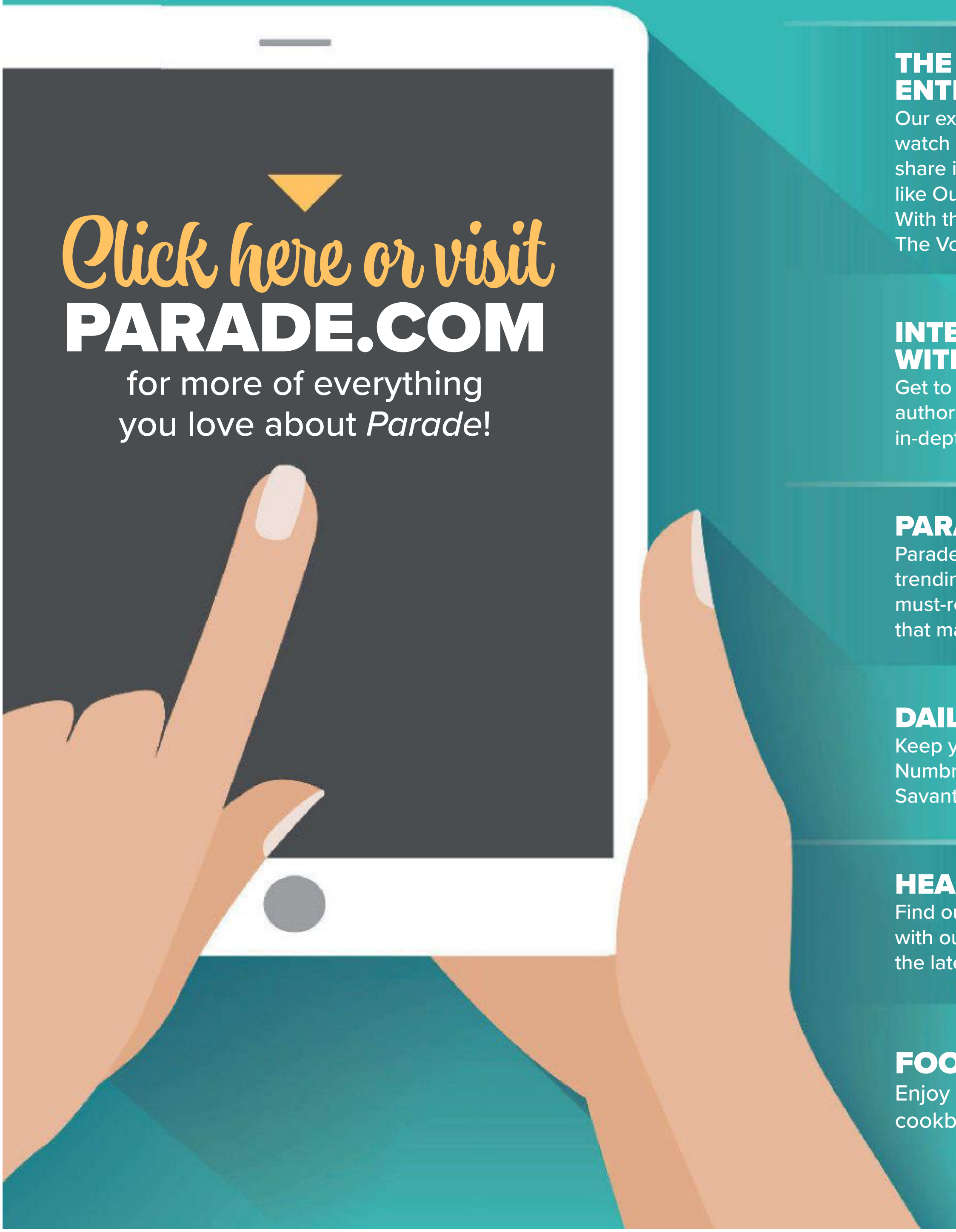

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